

HOME NEWS

Defence contributes most to shedding 12,000 civil servants

By a Staff Reporter

The Civil Service has contracted by nearly 12,000 officials since the Government's economy cuts of April 1976. The greatest savings arose from the defence review, which affected a shedding of 15,000 civil servants by the Ministry of Defence.

Defence savings are offset by increases in other departments, particularly in the Inland Revenue, the Department of Health and Social Security and the Employment Group. The figures were published yesterday in *Civil Service Statistics 1978*, which said that further significant changes were unlikely this year.

Between the end of 1976 and the end of 1977 the Civil Service shrank from 746,161 to 737,984, a reduction of 8,177 officials, representing 1.1 per cent. By April 1 this year there had been a further fall to 735,636.

The document, published by the Civil Service Department,

gives significant departmental increases for 1977 and offers explanations. The largest increase, in the Inland Revenue, was due to "the effect on personal tax levels of inflation, introduction of the child benefit scheme and increased tax liability on certain foreign earnings".

The Department of Health and Social Security increased by 2,404 because of "additional supplementary benefit work reflecting unemployment levels during the year and the introduction and building up of work on child benefits". Unemployment and the expansion of training schemes are the explanation of an increase of 1,065 in the Employment Group.

The Department of the Environment achieved a 2,227 cut after public spending savings. The computerization of accounts by the Department of National Savings led to a shedding of 1,343 officials. The run-down of defence staff is 74,000. *Civil Service Statistics 1978* (Stationery Office, £2.75).

Broadcasting White Paper expected at month's end

By Kenneth Gossling

The Government is expected to publish the White Paper on the future of broadcasting before Parliament goes into recess for the summer. It should be available at about the end of the month.

A decision on any increase in the television licence fee, however, is not expected until the end of the year. The feeling is that the BBC can manage until then, although its chairman, Sir Michael Swann, indicated in May that it will reach the limits of its borrowing powers of £30m by 1979 and will be overdrawn by July.

Colour licences held in May, the last available figures, totalled 11,256,733, an increase of 8,600 on the previous month's figure. The number of licences for black-and-white sets dropped

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Widow aged 77 whipped and beaten, court told

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham. Mr David Smout, QC, for the prosecution, said at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday that a widow, aged 77, was whipped like a dog, hit over the head with a tray and a brush, and slapped on the face on many occasions.

The widow, Mrs Lily Hindmarch, finally died. Her body was found to be covered in bruises, cuts and lacerations. She had several fractured ribs and her back was broken. Blows to the head had caused a haemorrhage.

Mr Smout said Mrs Hindmarch was hit with a tray by

John Brown, aged 62, after her shouts had evoked him. She was shouting, he added, because Mr Brown's wife, Eva, aged 53, was whipping her with electric flex.

Mrs Hindmarch went to live with Mr Brown, her sister-in-law, and Mrs Brown, at Erasmus Road, Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after her husband died in 1973.

The Browns have both denied a charge of manslaughter and each has pleaded not guilty to two charges of assaulting Mrs Hindmarch, causing bodily harm.

The trial continues today.



Prince Frederick's barge, last used in 1849, has been restored and is in the Barge House, which reopened yesterday, at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Diary, page 14.

Switch from baths to conferences

About the time the Russians

were busy taking Adrianople in their war against Turkey, Leo XIII was being elected Pope and Londoners were welcoming the arrival of Cleopatra's Needle, far weightier matters were being considered at the North Yorkshire spa of Harrogate, namely the incorporation of the Harrogate Hydropathic Company.

A group of shrewd businessmen observing the indulgences of Victorian socialites during the hectic London season, decided to use the advantage of the beneficial qualities of Harrogate's mineral springs and provide facilities for the rest and purge desirable if the gentry were to face successfully the rigours of the more exacting round of shoots and hunts which came later in the year.

Changes in medical opinions about the value of mineral waters later caused the Harrogate Hydropathic Company to change course and to change name. It became the Old Swan Hotel (Harrogate) Ltd and yesterday more than 200 guests gathered there to celebrate the centenary of the original company's incorporation.

Mr Geoffrey A. Wright, mine host, chairman and managing director of the company, who proudly calls himself an innkeeper, has been at the Old Swan for the past 34 years. He gave a conveniently brief resume of the history of the

Regional report

Ronald Kershaw Harrogate

company preferring to direct attention to a small book, he has written, *The Story of the Swan*.

The beginnings of the hotel are obscure. It was certainly in existence about 1709 in the hands of one Jonathan Shutt, an inn with cottages near by known as Swan Lodgings.

The sale of the hotel in 1878 and the formation of the company marked the start of a gracious living in Harrogate. The Swan had been enlarged by the Shutt and was rebuilt as the Harrogate Hydro, complete with medical baths, Turkish baths, and even electric shock baths.

The hydro, incidentally, was the first building in Harrogate to be lit by electricity. Presumably to assist "the Harrogate cure", alcoholic drinks were banished from the premises and a strict course of plain diet, baths, exercise, massage, and controlled water drinking apparently worked wonders for the 300 patients it could take.

The building stayed a hydro for 70 years, was requisitioned

by the Ministry of Aircraft Production at the outbreak of the Second World War.

As Bernard Jennings, author of *A History of the Wells and Springs of Harrogate*, recalls, after the Second World War the royal baths at Harrogate were kept busy with hydrophobic treatments, mainly for National Health Service patients, but the spa was almost dead. The royal baths were closed in 1953.

Then the council decided to concentrate on developing the town as a conference centre. Hotels that once housed pampered patients soon began to take in equally demanding delegates from trade associations, professional bodies, trade unions and the like.

The main conference venue was the Royal Hall, but space to exhibit goods was lacking, so a plan to build five substantial exhibition halls linked to the Royal Hall was embarked upon.

So, a conference and exhibition centre costing so far more than £10m, is being built. It will have a 2,000-seat auditorium with simultaneous translation facilities, closed-circuit television, banqueting hall for 1,000 people, underground car-parking, an hotel, a supermarket, exhibition halls, and a wealth of other modern facilities.

The building is due to be completed early next year.

Labour selects James Reid for Dundee, East

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr James (Jimmy) Reid, the former communist spokesman for the Upper Clyde shipyard workers, was selected as the Labour Party candidate for Dundee, East, after the closing of the Clyde shipyards, he has been endorsed by the organization committee of the Labour Party national executive as prospective Labour candidate for Dundee, East.

By nine votes, for four, the committee approved the local Labour Party's decision to adopt Mr Reid as the man to win back the seat from the Scottish National Party. Mr Gordon Wilson, the SNP spokesman on energy and oil, won the seat from Labour in February, 1974, and has a majority of 5,983.

Local Labour Party members realize that in the coming general election Dundee, East, will be a severe test of Labour's plan to win back support through the passage of the Bill devolving power to a Scottish assembly. By 38 votes out of 64, the management committee chose Mr Reid, but there were objections about his left-wing views and his recent resignation from the Communist Party to join Labour.

Opponents of Mr Reid had protested that his choice broke a rule that a prospective candidate must have been a member of the Labour Party for at least two years.

Tories' denigration of Mr Callaghan goes on

By Our Political Editor

The high level Conservative denigration of the Prime Minister continued last night with a biting reference to the Bremen summit in a speech from Sir Ian Gilmour, Shadow Cabinet spokesman on defence. In view of Labour's "deplorable record" their electoral strategy was criticized to "ask the country to support Mr Callaghan rather than the Labour Government or Socialism". Sir Ian said in remarks prepared for a speech in London. Yet "the real" Mr Callaghan was seen at Bremen.

Fueled by the meeting last month between the French President and the German Chancellor and without him, he arrived rudely and ostentatiously late at the conference. He then divided his efforts between trying to obstruct the Franco-German stabilization proposals and trying to take the credit for them. Neither a statesmanlike nor a plausible combination," Sir Ian said.

"Mr Callaghan began his political career by supporting Mr Ian Mikardo's successful attempts in 1944 to foist nationalization on the Labour Party and the country. He was a uniformed disastrous Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1964 to 1967. As Home Secretary he lost the confidence of

the police and tried to gerrymander the 1970 election. And as a sideline he scuppered Sir Harold Wilson's attempts to reform industrial relations. His foreign secretariatship from 1974 to 1976 was one long tale of weakness, blunder and bluster.

"As Prime Minister his performance has been almost equally dismal, as Mr Heath pointed out last week. No wonder Labour is forced to rely on the impression he gives. But it is his record that will count in the end."

Mr Marcus Fox, MP, a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, added his two bits of abuse in a speech at Moss Side last night. "Gerrymandering of parliamentary boundaries and gerrymandering of a flimsy economic fabric come easily to the man in number ten," he said. "Pretending reasonable press while keeping Labour left-wingers in the background was 'a sort of latter-day version of Little Red Riding Hood with Jim Callaghan playing the wolf in grandma's clothing'."

In Penistone, Mr John

Mr Heath in new role as Callaghan baiter

Continued from page 1

segregation of week from strong currencies in the proposed scheme, was ignored by Mr Callaghan. He preferred to insist he was not going to be hurried into some ill prepared currency scheme the way the Tories were in 1972, when, he added, Britain lost over \$2,000m in seven weeks. He was trying to learn from the Opposition's mistakes even if they were not.

This managed, first to amuse Mr Heath, then to cause him to make a rare intervention. The former Prime Minister reproached Mr Callaghan for voting himself up into a freeze over 1972. Then in fact, Britain was out in the EEC and was "forced out of an existing parity by speculation" just the way Mr Callaghan had been in 1976 and, he added with a snarl, as in 1957 "when Mr Callaghan, as Chancellor, devalued the pound."

Shots at Navy ship

Shots were fired at an Irish naval vessel last night as naval men were seizing nets off Arranmore, Island in an action against suspected salmon poachers.

Concorde clean bill

British Aerospace and British Airways said last night that they were satisfied that the hairline cracks discovered on the wings of Concorde in March had been eliminated.

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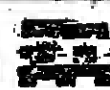
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WEST EUROPE

Nine reach agreement to end US ban on uranium supplies

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, July 10

The European Community has agreed to hold talks with Washington on adapting the existing arrangements for American supplies of highly enriched uranium to bring them into line with the recently approved United States Nuclear Non-proliferation Act.

The agreement of the Nine, conveyed in a letter from the European Commission last Friday, should enable the Americans to lift the effective, though never officially admitted, embargo on supplies of highly enriched uranium to the EEC that has been in force since April 10.

Since that date, the EEC's refusal to discuss changing the existing supply contracts has meant that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been unable to approve export licences for the fuel.

Just before the deadline expired, however, approval of 17 export orders already in the pipeline was rushed through, so there has been no immediate threat to reactors in the EEC, which are still almost entirely dependent on American supplies of highly enriched uranium.

Portuguese coalition party wants changes

From Jose Sberchiff
Lisbon, July 10

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, has cut short his holiday after a Christian Democratic Party national council meeting at the weekend demanded Cabinet changes.

The CDS, which has three ministers and four secretaries of state in the otherwise socialist Government, particularly wants the immediate dismissal of Senhor Luiz Sals, the Minister of Agriculture.

Describing the present situation in Portugal as one of "delicate and serious crisis", a statement said the party's continuation in the Government would depend on the proper functioning of undertakings made by the Socialist Party, with the support of the President.

The CDS demands better relations between the Government and the President; a statement from the Prime Minister on the Government's priority activities; a Government reshuffle with dismissal of the Minister of Agriculture; more discussions with social organizations and the reconsideration of how to implement the CDS-Socialist Party agreement.



Bystanders looking over a van which was overturned during rioting in Pamplona during which 18 were arrested.

Fiery sermon in Pamplona on Basque's death

From Harry Debellus
Pamplona, July 10

Its streets deserted and littered with fire-gutted cubs and rubble after two nights of rioting, the northern Spanish city of Pamplona looked today like anything but a city celebrating a world-famous annual festival.

For the second consecutive day, the dangerous race through the streets of local youths, pursued by fighting bulls, which was brought to the attention of a wider audience in the writings of Ernest Hemingway, was cancelled. The last of an estimated 200,000 foreign tourists, who had come for the fiesta of San Fermín, patron saint of the city, were leaving this morning, three days before the end of the celebrations.

Throughout the morning, even the grey-uniformed riot police, whose action at the outset of the violence on Saturday has been criticized by the Pamplona city council as "violent and out of all proportion", were withdrawn discreetly from the streets.

By mid-afternoon, however, they were back in evidence as new skirmishes began and crowds of pro-Basque youths taunted them and pelted them with stones in a number of incidents.

At the funeral today in the main Pamplona cemetery of a 28-year-old Trotskyist who died with a bullet through his head on Saturday when fighting broke out in the bull ring, the only uniformed representatives of law and order were two municipal policemen.

About 5,000 watched as the red-draped coffin of Señor Jeronimo Rodriguez was carried to the cemetery and placed in a burial niche. A lone violinist played "the International" as the mourners sang. Then they sang two Basque songs, one of them a defiant, unofficial national anthem of the Basque country.

Shortly before, at a Mass celebrated by three priests which had been banned by the authorities, a Basque clergyman delivered a fiery sermon for the man who in life had professed to be an atheist.

Father Javier Larrazarri referred to right-wing provocation in the sermon, saying: "Never before have so few inflicted suffering on so many. Never before have so few tortured so many and now we

have to make sure that the many will respond wholeheartedly to the challenge."

For some time, we people of Navarra [the province of which Pamplona is the capital] have had the impression that someone is trying to block our road to freedom in this laughable democracy. Someone wants to smash the unity between Navarra and the Basques...

"No one is going to make us eat dust; no one is going to humiliate us, especially not outsiders. We must show that we know who the enemies of our people are."

In all the rioting, the worst the city has ever seen, only 18 people were taken into custody. Only eight of them remained under arrest today.

A broad-alliance put Italy's new leader into office but to survive it must show that it can govern

A steep hill for President Pertini

From Peter Nichols
Rome, July 10

Signor Alessandro Pertini spent his first working day as Italy's new President in planning an official routine, hearable by the media, but he was also uninvited to any such thing, while cheerfully setting out to persuade the palace staff that the new head of state is as warm and human as the newspapers have been saying.

He has caused some logistical problems. Signora Pertini refuses to move up the Quirinal Hill from their flat immediately below the palace near the Trevi Fountain.

She points out that she has her own career—she is a psychologist and a former journalist—and objects to sacrificing her work to be first lady.

RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS											
Ballots	Pertini (Socialist)	Andreotti (Christian Democrat)	Sella (Socialist)	La Malfa (Republican)	Reale (Social Democrat)	Berti (Liberal)	Others	Blank votes	Spilled votes	Abstentions	
1	3,339	1	—	—	—	—	—	552	79	19	—
2	1,337	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	586	48	—
3	5,338	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	35	540	—
4	4,355	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	66	—
5	4,355	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	3	22	—
6	10,350	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	16	—
7	4,357	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	136	—
8	358	1	—	—	—	—	—	17	15	142	—
9	357	1	—	—	—	—	—	17	12	24	—
10	2,355	1	—	—	—	—	—	17	11	106	—
11	1,355	1	—	—	—	—	—	21	10	23	—
12	354	1	—	—	—	—	—	22	12	17	—
13	364	8	—	—	—	—	—	18	10	98	—
14	3,355	8	—	—	—	—	—	18	8	36	—
15	3,347	8	—	—	—	—	—	15	8	78	—
16	832	4	2	2	2	—	—	26	121	6	—

On the first three ballots, a two-thirds majority was required; on the fourth and subsequent ballots, 506 votes were required (a simple majority).

Lockheed bribery scandal and tax evasion. It is hoped that events will now be less dramatic.

Trade union leaders called on Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, today to discuss economic policy. Another drop in industrial production, by comparison with last year was shown by figures for May released today. These are reminders that familiar problems remain.

So are the figures issued about violence. The first six months of this year saw 1,487 incidents with 23 dead and 300 injured. There were 24 kidnappings and 877 cars were destroyed. The total has fallen.

The election of a hero of the resistance to the presidency is a reminder that the republican constitution is based on the idea of anti-fascism as a disorganising force. Some advocates of the broad parliamentary alliance supporting the Government maintain that the constitution calls for cooperation by all anti-fascist parties.

The communists, however, are in the strange position of being accorded more real power than they themselves care to show.

They are happy with the presidential results but the outcome was not due to their initiative, just as the downfall of Signor Leone and the fall of the last Government were

begun by non-Communist forces. Though the Communists were widely held responsible for all these developments.

The presidential election has undoubtedly strengthened the time being the view that as many parties as possible should be backing the Government. Signor Pertini was supported by just this outlook.

It is worth noting that neither the Christian Democrats nor the Republicans would support him as the Socialist Party's official candidate, but were ready to do so when the Socialist leadership officially adopted another candidate.

Some Communists dream the (for now impossible) dream of an alliance in which they and the Socialists would eject the Christian Democrats from Power. Some Christian Democrats dream of a return to their former alliance which would exclude the Communists from Government once again.

These are the currents that became more visible during the election of the President. For the moment, alternatives to the present balance are possible, but the impossible could well become the desirable, a broad coalition fails to provide legislative results.

From what is known of President Pertini's views, he likes the present system. Presumably he will now do what he can with his limited powers to encourage the governmental parties to govern.

As for Signor Pertini, he has already talked enough about liberty in his two days as President to be in no position to restrict his wife and it is in any case "not his business" to the Trevi flat. It is a matter of minutes away from the palace, but security will be a problem in one of Rome's most popular squares.

But such technical questions are insignificant compared to the real issue after Signor Pertini's election.

The country now has a President who enjoys widespread respect and was elected with a bigger vote than any of his predecessors. The first round of the presidential election, the parliamentary alliance affording the present Government, the biggest majority for three decades.

The presidential election showed that this could bring certain results: for the first time, the ballots were fewer instead of more than at the preceding election.

But from all this consent an effective executive has some how to emerge. What government has been doing since the Administration took office has been a matter of pinning a few administrative leaves from the surrounding jungle.

The government was about to face its first vote of confidence in parliament on March 16 when Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic leader, was kidnapped and for weeks the President was devoted to his state.

Then came the campaign against the outgoing President, Signor Giovanni Leone, who was forced to resign for an alleged connexion with the

Baader lawyer given suspended jail sentence

From Patricia Clegg
London, July 10

Dr Karl Groenewald, the former defence lawyer for the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group, has been given a suspended jail sentence today for assisting his clients' criminal organization.

He thus becomes the first terrorist lawyer to be sentenced for going beyond the law in looking after their interests.

A similar trial is in progress at Stuttgart against Herr Klaus Krohne, another lawyer for Baader-Meinhof gang, who successfully sought refuge in France. He is charged with several others in being involved in the public information network between the group and its supporters.

The public information network, Dr Groenewald admitted, brought them together into a single ideological block. He was also accused of instructing his clients to escape or release their captives, backfiring into terrorist attacks.

Dr Groenewald, who for a time defended the "Andreas" Baader, Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Gurr, said that the work had been indispensable for his defence of the terrorists. He denied that it had been used to prepare crimes outside the cell. He will appeal.

Mr Mintoff explains his ban on British journalists

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, July 10

Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, gave details in the House of Representatives tonight of the incidents which he said led him to ban British journalists from Malta.

He then referred to the second half of May, when the Daily Mail reported that Malta was blocking back the extradition of the businessman John Gaul, sought by Britain in connexion with his wife's murder; in retaliation for the British Office not carrying out a British court order to return a runaway mother's child to its father in Malta. This was a big lie, he said, but the Malta Government's request for a correction had been ignored.

Earlier this month, The Guardian, Financial Times, and Daily Telegraph carried long pieces on Malta by inveterate anti-Government reporters which were full of inaccuracies that the newspapers had never bothered to check with the Malta Government.

But the worst culprit was the BBC. In March 1977, BBC Television had interviewed a Malta minister for one hour on the understanding that the talk would be shown the next day, but it was not.

Then in March, 1978, Mr Steve Bradshaw of the BBC had broadcast on Radio 4 an attack on Malta.

On July 3 the BBC had one of its men talk about Colonel Gaddafi's visit to Malta, calling as witness a Maltese correspondent who had attacked Malta in the British press. The British High Commissioner had been told that Mr Mintoff would not tolerate their lies any longer and asked him to complain to the BBC. To show he meant business he would take the first steps by barring British journalists from Malta.

Asked by the Opposition whether the ban on British journalists was not a denial of human rights, Mr Mintoff replied that human wrongs not rights were involved. "If they come up with this human rights argument, I will tell them, push them up your jumper."

IPI protest: Mr Peter Galliner, the director of the International Press Institute, has sent a message to Mr Mintoff, expressing "disquiet on the reported banning of British journalists in Malta."

He asks: "What is the reason for such draconian measures? No reasons were given in the reported circular to your immigration authorities. It is obvious that it cannot be in the interests of your country to disallow journalists to enter Malta, particularly when British newspapers are so widely read and held in such high esteem."

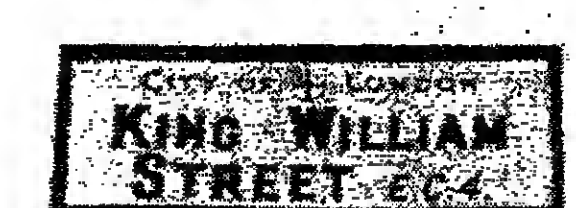
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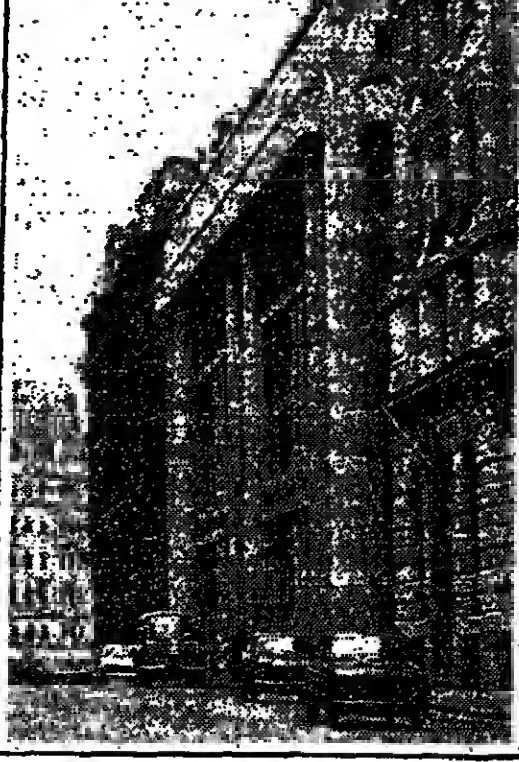
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OVERSEAS

President repeats his threat to resign as Beirut gunfire goes on

Beirut, July 10.—President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon intends to carry out his threat to resign, well-informed sources said today.

They reported that Mr Sarkis believed there was a strong possibility of further fighting and that he could do nothing to stop it.

He believed that there were no practical solutions to the Lebanese crisis in the absence of co-operation from the warring parties, and therefore intended to step down.

The President gave notice of his intention to resign last Thursday, after five days of savage fighting between Syrian troops and right-wing Lebanese militias in Christian district of east Beirut.

As political leaders urged Mr Sarkis to remain in office, the right-wing Phalangist radio reported sniper attacks in several areas of the battered east side today. It said there was also sporadic shooting with heavy-calibre weapons.

The Syrian troops, who form the bulk of a 30,000-strong Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon, said two of their men had been killed and eight wounded in rocket, mortar and sniper attacks since the artillery bombardment ended on Thursday.

Mr Sarkis was said to have repeated his intention to resign at a meeting with Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, in Beirut yesterday.

One source said: "The President told Sheikh Sabah there was no use in his remaining in office because he could do nothing. He said he saw no solution and expected further bloodshed unless all sides co-operated with him in practice, not merely in words."

"Mr Sarkis said that as head of state he felt responsible for the deaths of innocent civilians

and that he could not prevent it happening again, so he felt he must resign."

As the crack of high-powered sniper rifles sounded in deserted streets, the President held crucial talks with Mr Pierre Gemayel, leader of the powerful right-wing Phalangist party.

There was no official word on the outcome of the long meeting, but the Phalangist radio later quoted Mr Gemayel as saying that promises made by Arab countries must be fulfilled if Mr Sarkis was to remain in office.

The right-wing leader referred specifically to nine-year-old agreements designed to control Palestinian guerrilla activity in Lebanon.

The official national news agency reported that parliamentary leaders today called for the collection of weapons in accordance with a peace plan worked out by politicians last April.

The appeal to the Government was passed unanimously at a meeting of 16 deputies chaired by the Speaker of the House, Mr Kamel al-Assad. The agency quoted Mr Assad as saying: "I consider this as a direct prelude to solving the chronic crisis."

In the present tense atmosphere, however, the call was certain to be ignored by the militias and other irregular forces.

The news agency added that Mr Assad would visit Damascus tomorrow for talks with Syrian leaders—Reuter.

Damascus: Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, arrived from Riyadh today for an unannounced 24-hour visit to Syria. Diplomatic sources said the visit was connected with the situation in Lebanon. The Libyan Secretary of Information also arrived from Tripoli today.—UPI.

Thailand has high hopes of Cambodia visitor

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, July 10

Because Cambodia has no suitable aircraft, Mr Ieng Sary, the Foreign Minister, will travel by road from Phnom Penh to the Thai border on Friday, then fly to Bangkok in a Thai aircraft.

On his last visit three years ago he flew to Bangkok in an airliner provided by the Chinese Government.

The tightest security arrangements ever seen in Thailand are being made for the visit; there are more than 14,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand, many of them near the border point where Mr Sary will enter.

He is believed to be coming because of pressure from China on the Cambodian Government.

Until a month ago all contact between Bangkok and Phnom Penh had been lost. When Mr Sary was in Peking in June, however, Mr Ieng Sary, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, arranged a meeting between him and a former Thai foreign minister.

Afterwards, Mr Sary sent a message to General Kriangsak Chamanand, the Thai Prime Minister, saying he would visit Bangkok in the near future.

Discussions between Mr Sary and the Thais will centre on measures to end border clashes between the two countries.

The Thai Government is eager to establish normal relations with Cambodia and has never blamed Phnom Penh for these attacks. It has placed responsibility on Thai communist insurgents or dissident Khmer Rouge units.

The Thai Government attaches the utmost importance to the talks as its policy on the border conflict has been regarded as too soft by the Army's "young Turks", who brought down the last Government.



Chicago riot police guarding American Nazi party members at a long-delayed rally addressed by the group's leader, Mr Frank Collin (centre), at which 65 people were arrested in scuffles.

Bhutto case appellant confesses his guilt

Rawalpindi, July 10.—A former police officer appealing with Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the ousted Prime Minister, against a death sentence for conspiring to murder a politician confessed his guilt to Pakistan's Supreme Court today.

Mian Muhammad Abbas, former operations director of the paramilitary Federal Security Force, said in a statement read out by his lawyer: "I now admit my role in the conspiracy of the murder of Mr Ahmad Raza Kasuri."

Mr Kasuri, a political opponent of Mr Bhutto, was ambushed nearly four years ago. He escaped but his father was killed.

Mian Abbas alleged that he had been forced to join the

conspiracy because of coercion and threats against him and members of his family.

He said that he was a chronic heart patient and could die at any time. "In order to unburden my conscience, therefore, I take this opportunity to disclose the whole truth to save my soul from perpetual agony," Reuter.

Hasan Akhtar, writes from Islamabad: Mr Ramsay Clark, former United States Attorney-General, who met General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, for an hour today, failed to get permission to interview Mr Bhutto in his death cell in Rawalpindi jail. Mr Clark said he would leave here tomorrow without meeting Mr Bhutto.

Phalangist Party is the largest and most powerful. It is led by Mr Pierre Gemayel, while his son, Bachir, aged 31, is in charge of the militia.

It is the willingness of the rightists to accept Israeli support, and often openly to solicit it, which has given the present Lebanese security crisis its dangerous international dimension. But a true Levantine fashion, the seeds of the conflict were sown when the Syrian troops came to the assistance of the Christian militias during the final months of the civil war.

Of the rightist groups, the

India's population continues to increase by 13m a year

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi, July 10

A sample enumeration has shown that India's population continues to increase by nearly 13 million, almost equal to Australia's population, every year.

The pilot survey has been conducted in eight states in preparation for the census due in 1981. On the basis of the data collected, the census authorities estimate that India's population will be 672 million by 1981.

Surprisingly, the figures appear to show that the forced sterilization programme carried out at the instance of Mr Sanjay Gandhi, Mrs Indira Gandhi's son, during the emergency, have had no impact on the population increase.

It is felt that the Janata Government's reluctance to back the Family Planning Programme after defeating Mrs Gandhi is

responsible for the increase in the birthrate.

In government Janata, which made forced sterilizations an election issue has not pursued the programme with vigour. Even the word "planning" has been changed to "welfare".

Many doctors are also unwilling to sterilize or carry out an abortion, although both operations are now legal, because they fear complaints later that the operation was forced.

Some doctors use legalistic scruples as an excuse, refusing to perform sterilizations if the formality of obtaining the husband's permission has not been observed.

It has been estimated that in the one year of Janata rule, the number of sterilizations has dropped from four million in 1975-76 to fewer than one million in 1977-78. About 80 per cent of the operations were carried out on women.

Six die as plane hits houses

Melbourne, July 10.—Six members of one family were killed tonight when a light aircraft plunged into their home on take-off from a suburban Melbourne airport.

Police said the six suffered fatal burns when the twin-engined Partenavia P68 aircraft crashed into two houses. Four people, including the pilot and two passengers, were injured.—Reuter.

Delhi official kills himself

From Our Correspondent Delhi, July 10

Mr Krishan Chand, who was lieutenant-governor of Delhi during Mrs Indira Gandhi's period of office, has committed suicide by jumping into a well.

He said in a suicide note: "I am fed up with life and it is better to die than live in disgrace."

Mr Chand feared prosecution after his recent indictment by the Shah Commission Inquiring

In brief

Fresh appeal in Chapman case

Athens, July 10.—The lawyer of Nikos Moundis, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of the British journalist, Ann Chapman, said tonight that the Supreme Court's decision to reject the plea for a retrial was taken by a majority of nine and this gave him the right to appeal. He intended to do so at once.

Miss Chapman was found strangled in Greece in 1971. Her father believes she died at the hands of the former Greek junta's security police.

Space unloading

Moscow, July 10.—The two cosmonauts who are in their fourth week on board the orbiting Salyut space station today started unloading the fuel and other supplies brought in an unmanned spacecraft which docked with Salyut yesterday.

Kolwezi body count

Lusaka, July 10.—The bodies of 855 people—719 Africans and 136 Europeans—were found by the International Red Cross in the Zaire copper-mining town of Kolwezi after the May fighting, it was announced here.

Soweto church burnt

Johannesburg, July 10.—Police are investigating an arson attack which caused serious damage to the big Regina Mundi Roman Catholic church in the black township of Soweto.

Ethiopia peace plan

Addis Ababa, July 10.—The Soviet Union is promoting a peace plan for a confederation linking the two Marxist states of South Yemen and Ethiopia, in which the Eritreans fighting for secession would also have a voice, Eritrean sources said today.

Students shot dead

Managua, Nicaragua, July 10.—Nicaraguan troops shot three students dead and wounded two others after the students had thrown petrol bombs at their car yesterday in Jinotega, 20 miles from Managua, military sources said.

Lebanese Christians look towards Europe rather than the Arab world

From Christopher Walker Beirut, July 10

The Lebanese Christians share many similarities with the Protestants in Ulster, though they consist largely of Maronites who are in communion with Rome. The most noticeable of these similarities is an unshakeable conviction that their cause is both misunderstood and misrepresented by an outside world which they accuse of suffering from moral decay.

The focus of international attention in the Middle East because of their unresolved conflict with the Syrian Army,

the Lebanese Christians are represented by three main political groupings and five private armies whose military and political identities merge so closely that any real distinction becomes meaningless.

Until earlier this year, the main element were loosely contained in the Lebanese Front, a coalition formed in the closing stages of the civil war and headed by Mr Camille Chamoun, the former President, who is 78. Last month's massacre in the north confirmed the breakaway of one of the three Christian factions headed by another former President, Mr Suleiman Franjeh, whose

son was among the 33 people murdered.

Political inheritance in Lebanon (on both left and right) passes from father to son. So Mr Chamoun's National Liberal Party has a militia led by his younger son, Dany, and a political wing led by his eldest son, Dory.

All three men profess an essentially right-wing nationalist philosophy which is the common hallmark of Lebanese Christian leaders. They look towards Europe rather than the Arab world and associate themselves with France more closely than with any other country.

The power of the Christian community, which has traditionally dominated Lebanese commercial and political life, has grown in military terms recently. This led many

observers to believe that they were plotting to achieve a fully partitioned Lebanon, leaving the poorer southern section to the divided Muslim community.

Christian leaders speak rather of a "system of cantons" on the Swiss model, which would leave them with their own ports, airport, budget and separate army barracks.

Of the rightist groups, the

Phalangist Party is the largest

and most powerful. It is led by Mr Pierre Gemayel, while his son, Bachir, aged 31, is in charge of the militia.

It is the willingness of the rightists to accept Israeli support, and often openly to solicit it, which has given the present Lebanese security crisis its dangerous international dimension. But a true Levantine fashion, the seeds of the conflict were sown when the Syrian troops came to the assistance of the Christian militias during the final months of the civil war.

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Mr Krishan Chand, who was lieutenant-governor of Delhi during Mrs Indira Gandhi's period of office, has committed suicide by jumping into a well.

He said in a suicide note: "I am fed up with life and it is better to die than live in disgrace."

Mr Chand feared prosecution after his recent indictment by the Shah Commission Inquiring

into alleged excesses committed during Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule. He had been accused of abusing his authority.

The police said that although it was a suicide, "we are not taking any chances and are investigating the matter".

The statement is significant because there have been allegations that Mr Chand was murdered after cooperating with the Government in giving information about irregularities

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SPORT

Trevino's experience keeps him at the heart of the Open

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent

Play on the opening day of the Open golf championship at St Andrews tomorrow will stretch over the best part of 14 hours, beginning at 7.30 am and with the last tee shot at 4.35 pm. Early risers will find plenty to watch with Muller, the 1976 British champion, on the first tee at 8.10 in company with Faldo and Giorgio Falda. That the big names come thick and fast.

At 8.45, for example, Trevino tees to the course and two three-months behind him will be the American, the reigning Masters champion, and Westcott. Trevino's partners will be the two left-handers in the tournament, Charles and Dawson, and if that does not produce some excitement from the American, I shall really begin to think he is a changed man.

Trevino is at the heart of this championship. Those who can remember 1970 here are no doubt now wondering how he managed to put his tee to his 77 in the last round when he appeared to have the rest of the field at his mercy. He was not, however, and cannot after the fact that this should be a course that gives him special advantage. But even so, Trevino has said that playing here is a "feeling" game, and that he is not sure he can play it as well as he can elsewhere, and Trevino surely is a "feeling" player.

I am not trying to promote him as a favourite, especially after his last round when he appeared to have the rest of the field at his mercy. He was not, however, and cannot after the fact that this should be a course that gives him special advantage. But even so, Trevino has said that playing here is a "feeling" game, and that he is not sure he can play it as well as he can elsewhere, and Trevino surely is a "feeling" player.



Trevino: course will give him special advantage.

Watson spent the morning practising, having returned with Baldestre from his Pro-Am in Switzerland, in an attempt to get the feel of the course. He was not, however, and cannot after the fact that this should be a course that gives him special advantage. But even so, Trevino has said that playing here is a "feeling" game, and that he is not sure he can play it as well as he can elsewhere, and Trevino surely is a "feeling" player.

Hole by hole details of St Andrews

1 (BURN): 370 yards (par 4). A sense of the occasion stands on the first tee, but not a particularly difficult start. Aim should be just left of the green, and with only a three wood, leaving a seven or eight from the green. Swilcan, Burns, running across the first tee, and a birdie should not be of much concern, although safety to be long than short.

2 (DYKE): 411 yards (par 4). Drive must be right of "cheep" bunker, which can be seen from the tee. Too far right leaves awkward second shot. A three wood, placed leaving seven from the green.

3 (CARBONATE): 371 yards (par 4). Placement of tee shot again vital, this time as it is possible to three put bunkers to right of fairway.

4 (GINGER BEER): 463 yards (par 4). Strategize your own with the bunker, which can be seen from the tee. Too far right leaves awkward second shot. A three wood, placed leaving seven from the green.

5 (HOLE 'O' CROSS): 564 yards (par 5). Bunkers approximately 60 yards in diameter, and the line for tee shot just left of centre. A host of pot bunkers wait for anything pushed right. Longer drive may be better to get up in two, but more likely for ball to pitch into deep hollow short-cutting surface.

6 (GINGER BEER): 463 yards (par 4). Strategize your own with the bunker, which can be seen from the tee. Too far right leaves awkward second shot. A three wood, placed leaving seven from the green.

7 (HIGH-GOLF): 322 yards (par 4). A great start. With Elysian Field,

Tee-off times tomorrow

The tee-off times of the leading players for the first round of the Open golf championship at St Andrews tomorrow are as follows:

8.10: J. Muller (US), N. Faldo, A. Garrido (Spain).

8.30: N. Coles, R. Crenshaw (US), I. Aoki (Japan).

8.55: M. Pinero (Spain), E. Snead (US), B. Barnes.

9.25: S. Lyle, J. Newton (Australia), R. Shearer (Australia).

9.45: P. Dawson, R. Charles (NZ), L. Trevino (US).

10.10: G. Player (SA), P. Oosterhuis (US), F. Watson (US).

10.30: J. Pace (US), K. Brown, B. Baldestre (Spain).

11.15: S. Torrance, P. Thomson (Australia), L. Wardhaugh (US).

12.50: A. Bean (US), P. McEvoy, H. Baiocchi (SA).

1.10: C. O'Connor, Jr. (US), J. Nicklaus (US), R. Shearer (Australia).

1.30: G. Marsh (Australia), T. Horton (Royal Jersey), T. Kite (US).

2.5: M. Ozaki (Japan), G. Burns (US), H. Clark.

2.25: A. Jacklin, D. Graham (Australia), T. Watson (US).

2.45: H. Green (US), D. Hayes (SA), M. Jones.

3.20: P. Butler, H. Irwin (US), T. Sugibara (Japan).

3.40: A. Palmer (US), B. Gallacher, G. Norman (Australia).

Open qualifiers

147: T. J. Gies (Northants County), 75; 76: N. Price (Africa), 75; 77: 78: 79: 80: 81: 82: 83: 84: 85: 86: 87: 88: 89: 90: 91: 92: 93: 94: 95: 96: 97: 98: 99: 100: 101: 102: 103: 104: 105: 106: 107: 108: 109: 110: 111: 112: 113: 114: 115: 116: 117: 118: 119: 120: 121: 122: 123: 124: 125: 126: 127: 128: 129: 130: 131: 132: 133: 134: 135: 136: 137: 138: 139: 140: 141: 142: 143: 144: 145: 146: 147: 148: 149: 150: 151: 152: 153: 154: 155: 156: 157: 158: 159: 160: 161: 162: 163: 164: 165: 166: 167: 168: 169: 170: 171: 172: 173: 174: 175: 176: 177: 178: 179: 180: 181: 182: 183: 184: 185: 186: 187: 188: 189: 190: 191: 192: 193: 194: 195: 196: 197: 198: 199: 200: 201: 202: 203: 204: 205: 206: 207: 208: 209: 210: 211: 212: 213: 214: 215: 216: 217: 218: 219: 220: 221: 222: 223: 224: 225: 226: 227: 228: 229: 230: 231: 232: 233: 234: 235: 236: 237: 238: 239: 240: 241: 242: 243: 244: 245: 246: 247: 248: 249: 250: 251: 252: 253: 254: 255: 256: 257: 258: 259: 260: 261: 262: 263: 264: 265: 266: 267: 268: 269: 270: 271: 272: 273: 274: 275: 276: 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Law Report July 10 1978

House of Lords

Action in England against chattels in Cyprus hotels

Hesperides Hotels Ltd and Others v Mufizade
Before Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Salmon, Lord Fraser, Lord Kilbride and Lord Keith of Kilmuir

[Speeches delivered July 6]

The House of Lords, while affirming the established principle that the English court has no jurisdiction to entertain an action for damages for trespass to immovables outside England, thereby holding that an action by two Greek Cypriot hoteliers against alleged trespass by persons in England to procure trespass to their hotels in Kyrenia, Cyprus, should be struck out. The Lords allowed the companies to proceed with an action claiming against the defendant in England relief against trespass to chattels consisting of the contents of the hotels.

The claim in respect of the chattels was made only by amendment to the statement of claim in the Court of Appeal. The successful companies were required to pay three-quarters of the defendant's costs in the House of Lords and in the Court of Appeal.

Their Lordships allowed to that limited extent to appear by two plaintiffs, companies, Hesperides Hotels Ltd and Catechis Hotels Ltd, incorporated under the law of the Republic of Cyprus and owners and proprietors of hotels in Kyrenia, and one defendant, Mufizade, a Turkish Cypriot, from the Court of Appeal. The House of Lords, in 1977, [1978] QB 203, which had struck out their action for damages against the defendant, a Turkish Cypriot, for trespass to immovables in England, because it was in substance an action for relief against trespass to immovables situated out of England.

Mr David Kemp, QC, and Mr George Newman for the companies; Mr F. P. Neill, QC, Mr Gerald Davies and Mr N. Padfield for Mr Mufizade.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that the companies were family owned and controlled by Greek Cypriots. Before 1974, when Turkish forces drove them from areas in northern Cyprus, they owned two hotels in Kyrenia. After the invasion those who controlled the companies went to Limassol, the Greek Cypriot area. In 1976 it came to their knowledge that efforts were being made in London to organise a tour to visit the hotels. A body calling itself the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus issued brochures, a travel agency called Aegean Turkish Holidays Ltd handled the tour, and it was said, accepted bookings for the hotels from intending holiday makers in England. The Turkish Federated State of Cyprus had its representative in London Mr Mufizade, respondent to the appeal.

In February, 1977, the companies issued a writ with statement of claim endorsed against the travel agency and Mr Mufizade claiming damages for trespass to their hotels. They also claimed an interim injunction in the same terms. Mr Mufizade entered a conditional appearance and himself issued a summary judgment setting aside the writ. They were heard by Mr Justice May.

At that stage Mr Mufizade claimed that, having been invited on the basis that the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus was a foreign sovereign state and that he was its representative. Secondly, he contended that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the action on the principle established by the House in *British South Africa Co v Companhia de Mocambique* (1893) AC 602. To enable himself to deal with the first point, the judge asked the Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, whether Her Majesty's Government recognized, de jure or de facto, the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus and whether it was a diplomatic privilege to Mr Mufizade. The Secretary of State replied giving a negative answer to both questions. That disposed of the first contention.

On the second point, the judge decided that the court had jurisdiction to entertain the action on the principle established by the House in *British South Africa Co v Companhia de Mocambique* (1893) AC 602. To enable himself to deal with the first point, the judge asked the Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, whether Her Majesty's Government recognized, de jure or de facto, the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus and whether it was a diplomatic privilege to Mr Mufizade. The Secretary of State replied giving a negative answer to both questions. That disposed of the first contention.

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Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Salmon, Lord Fraser, Lord Kilbride and Lord Keith of Kilmuir

The rule was generally accepted as stated in *Rule 79 in Dicey's Conflict of Laws* (9th ed 1932): "The rule is that the English court has no jurisdiction to entertain an action for damages for trespass to immovables outside England, thereby holding that an action by two Greek Cypriot hoteliers against alleged trespass by persons in England to procure trespass to their hotels in Kyrenia, Cyprus, should be struck out. The Lords allowed the companies to proceed with an action claiming against the defendant in England relief against trespass to chattels consisting of the contents of the hotels."

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National Insurance versus supplementary benefits

While Britain is in the midst of celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the welfare state, uncomfortable facts are being overlooked. It is generally true that the nation's health has improved enormously, and that people out of work now have much greater protection against poverty than before.

But 30 years of the National Health Service has not altered the fact that people born into poor households are much more likely to suffer ill health and shorter lives than those who are better off. Nor has 30 years of national insurance succeeded in ensuring freedom from want. Nowhere is the latter point more clearly demonstrated than in the rise of the welfare rights movement in the past 10 years.

The movement has developed as it became clear that the social security system was becoming so complex that it was not delivering benefits to the people they were intended for. The system does guarantee a basic income to people out of work for whatever reason, but not in the way envisaged when the welfare state was built on the foundations of the Beveridge proposals.

National insurance benefits, intended as the main source of income for people out of work through sickness, unemployment or age, have failed to keep ahead of the supplementary benefits level. People whom Beveridge anticipated would be covered by national insurance have been forced to rely on supplementary benefits. In 1966—which was always intended as a last resort for people not covered by national insurance.

Thus, in 1948 when national insurance began, nearly three-quarters of the unemployed received unemployment benefits. Now, less than half do so. On the other hand, pensioners claim supplementary benefits on top of their retirement pensions and others receive rent and rate rebates to

bring their incomes up to the poverty line. About one in 10 of all households in Britain now rely on supplementary benefits for all or part of their incomes. Many pensioners and families also receive financial help from other means-tested benefits: 3,000 of which are now administered by local authorities.

The fundamental flaw with all such benefits is that a varying proportion of people entitled to them fail to claim. Miss Anne Howard, a social studies lecturer, argues in a book to be published on Thursday (*Welfare Rights: the local authorities' role*, Bedford Square Press, £1.75) that the most important reason is not the fear of stigma, ignorance or that the benefits are too small to bother with.

The main difficulty in her view is that the benefits available rely on people coming forward and proving their entitlement. Only a compulsory assessment of entitlement for everybody can combat the present administrative inefficiency, ignorance and stigma which now stop people receiving their benefits, Miss Howard says.

In the short term, Miss Howard says, there is little hope of a radical structural reform to remedy the situation. Any scheme to provide an automatic system of assessment, such as the variety of negative income tax schemes proposed in recent years, will still leave some selective benefits which people would fail to claim.

"Therefore, to ensure a full take-up of benefits under any system, it is essential to have a specialized welfare rights service which offers individual advice, produces palatable written propaganda, makes good use of television and radio, and tries to ensure that the reform in the administration of benefits."

Miss Howard is likely to be criticized both for advocating a reform that accepts the continuance of the present system and

for saying it should be based on local authorities using all the voluntary resources available in the area.

The welfare rights movement has been initiated by private groups concerned at the failure of the social security and welfare benefits systems to respond to the needs of individuals, many of whom are reluctant to approach their town halls because of their dislike of bureaucracy and officialdom. But, Miss Howard points out, that ministerial initiatives have petered out and that a public, independent welfare rights body is not even on the drawing board.

She accepts that a welfare rights campaign based on a purely voluntary network of agencies would be in a better position to identify new needs and pioneer ways of meeting them. It would also be less inhibited by the conflict of loyalties that would arise when government employees fight for their clients' interests against their own employers.

But there is little hope that voluntary agencies could provide the resources and sufficient trained volunteers to do the work. The complexities of the welfare state already make it too difficult for social workers to become expert enough to handle the most complicated cases, Miss Howard argues.

She suggests a new welfare rights campaign should be based on specialist officials employed by local authorities, but working closely with local voluntary groups.

"The full take-up of welfare benefits would not eradicate hardship from the lives of the poor: poverty is too penetrating and wide-ranging a condition to vanish in the face of a unitary approach," she writes. "What welfare rights action can do is to help one reason for poverty to disappear."

Pat Healy

Social services correspondent

When ignorance is not bliss

For many years the influence of the popular press has been unsympathetic, to say the least, to a more humane treatment of criminals. The newspapers see themselves as reflecting public opinion, rather than creating it. They have certainly kept alive and nourished particular hatreds. They have certainly exploited that side of our human nature which causes it to dwell with relish on the sins of our fellow humans, and to seek to punish them.

The result is that there are three attitudes today to our treatment of criminals. There are those who consider that our present treatment of them is inhumane and in-Christian to the prisoners and inimical to the interests of society. There are those who want harsher punishments in the interests (so they believe) of law and order. There are those in the middle, including many in official positions, who are inclined to go some way to least with the first group but are frightened of the second one which probably represents a large section, perhaps a majority, of public opinion.

Two reports appearing in the past few weeks help to focus our thoughts. One is the annual report of the Parole Board which has aroused little attention outside specialist circles. The other is that of the Home Office Advisory Council called "Sentences of Imprisonment: a Review of Maximum Penalties". It has had, in a popular sense, a very bad press, widely denounced on the grounds that it would substantially reduce the sentences served by criminals ("the taxpayer's charter" and so forth).

On this, the central issue in the popular discussion, the report is in fact somewhat ambiguous. The proposals, which on any showing are deeply pondered, need not be gone into in detail. It is claimed for them in the report that they rationalize existing practice, rather than introduce new values. The other is that of the Home Office Advisory Council called "Sentences of Imprisonment: a Review of Maximum Penalties". It has had, in a popular sense, a very bad press, widely denounced on the grounds that it would substantially reduce the sentences served by criminals ("the taxpayer's charter" and so forth).

Why has the Advisory Council Report had such a rough passage and the Parole Board Report such an easy one? The former is likely to introduce important changes in the House of Lords but the latter is not. But there is another more interesting factor. The Advisory Council to all its reasoning proceeds according to its conception of absolute justice. Parole, John Stuart Mill, Bertrand Russell and Archibald Nairn might not have arrived at these precise conclusions. But they would have recognized with ap-



proval the genuineness of the search for a just balance between the rights and welfare of individual criminals, and those of the community. There is no attempt, for example, in deciding whether particular criminals should receive exceptional (ie, unusually long) sentences on the grounds that they are dangerous, to take into account the public estimate of those dangers or the unpopularity with the multitude of the delinquents in question.

Not so, alas, the Parole Board. It would not be easy to extract from this or previous reports a very coherent view of their attitude to public opinion. It is rumoured that some members of the board share a view expressed recently by a former Home Secretary, that it is the function of the Home Secretary in the last resort, but not of the Parole Board, to take account of public sentiment in individual cases. The preponderant opinion seems, however, to be that of the board as a whole, that it is the board's function to advise on the suitability for parole of the prisoners whose cases are referred to it, in the light of all the relevant factors. In certain cases, generally those involving prisoners whose offences have made them notorious nationally or locally, public opinion will be of equal if not greater importance, which will have to be considered. In other words, what is usually called justice must be modified by the influence of the interests of the prestige of the board.

In the extreme case a person might be kept in prison for his whole life, when admittedly no possible danger to the public, because to do otherwise would make the board, and the system they represent, less popular. In some parts of the United States in the recent past such an argument would have justified the retention of a black person in prison indefinitely. The difference between this and mob rule is not apparent. Must we face the fact that the Parole Board has "got away with it" and the Advisory Council had the opposite experience, because the first pandered to the cruder sort of public opinion and the latter ignored it? It would be painful to accept this conclusion unreservedly.

We need not despair. The abolition of capital punishment was promoted from outside Parliament but many public men and women played an honourable part. In 1930 the whole of the Bishop's Bench in the House of Lords, with the exception of Archbishop Temple as he became, were I understand in favour of hanging. Thirty years later they were all against it. I believe unrepentantly in the decency and, within human limits, the good sense of the general public when given a full statement of the facts and arguments. But its present state of ignorance in penal matters is no basis for anyone, certainly not for the criminals or the victims of crime nor, in a general sense, for the public themselves.

Frank Longford

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What is merchantable quality?

The shoppers' defence in law against shoddy goods is the Sale of Goods Act which since 1893 has required that goods sold must be of "merchantable quality". So what is merchantable quality? The answer to that, disconcertingly, is that nobody knows. Consumers are in doubt and lawyers disagree.

Ironically much of the confusion arises because when the Sale of Goods Act was amended in 1973, Parliament, on the advice of the Law Commission, went out of its way to supply a definition of the term, which hitherto had gone undefined by statute.

The unsuspected difficulties caused by what was to all appearances a helpful and carefully considered piece of legislation, the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973, came to light in a sad story of a Reliant Scimitar car. Shortly after delivery the car broke down and the dissatisfied customer demanded his money back. By that time he had already written to the dealers to complain of a total of 23 defects, ranging from small but annoying faults in the finish to ominous noises from the engine and suspension.

The Consumers' Association confidently advised the Reliant's owner that he was justified in rejecting the car as unmerchantable. But when subsequently he went to solicitors who took counsel's opinion, counsel disagreed. So did a second counsel, whom the CA had suggested themselves. At this point the CA took fright. It suddenly became apparent that consumers' rights might have been dealt a devastating blow without anyone noticing. Indeed the extent of the damage is still a matter for heated discussion and potential

dispute. The CA called, as lawyers had been accustomed to do, on a description of merchantable quality propounded by Sir Owen Dixon in 1933 in the case of *Australian Knitting Mills v Grant*, a case familiarly known to lawyers as account of its subject matter as the "rich pants" case. Dixon held that merchantable quality meant that the goods should be in such a state that a buyer knowing all about any hidden defects would still be willing to pay full price for them.

When the Law Commission came to review this area of the law in the 1960s, the working paper they circulated proposed a similar, if more elaborately expressed, form of words. But when they reported in 1969 they said that their working paper proposal had been widely criticised as being "unduly complicated" and substituted a shorter version based as they said on the "relatively simple concept" of fitness for use.

This was the version adopted by the 1973 amendment to the Sale of Goods Act. It says the goods are of merchantable quality "if they are as fit for the purpose or purposes for which goods of that kind are commonly bought as it is reasonable to expect having regard to any description applied to them, the price (or relevant) and all other relevant circumstances."

Only the faulty Reliant awoke lawyers to the fact that the two definitions might be fundamentally different, and the possibility that Parliament's adoption of the shorter version might have eliminated the revered Dixon formula and ousted lawyers from the relevant case law completely.

The new definition raises awkward questions about what our goods are reasonably expected in these days of mass-produced goods. The Consumers' Association itself has found that new cars are never free of faults, and reported in *Motoring* (Which?) that in 16 years of car testing they had never yet bought a fault-free car.

If customers' willingness to accept defective cars, which seem to be all they can hope to get, has robbed them of the right to demand their money back for minor faults (as counsel's opinion in the case of the Reliant Scimitar suggested), the implications will extend to all other sorts of goods, too, and not only in cases in which the customer is intent to claim a refund.

The law of sale of goods on half-way house. Goods are either merchantable or they are not. If goods with minor faults, though defective, are still merchantable the buyer is left without remedy.

The Consumers' Association believe this affects millions of us each year. In an attempt to resolve the question without recourse to an expensive and risky test case, they put the facts and opinions in the Reliant Scimitar case to a seminar of more than a dozen leading authorities on the law of sale in London last month.

The result of the day's discussions was that one thing upon which the lawyers could all agree was that the law stands in urgent need of clarification. David Trench, the Consumers' Association's legal officer, says that the case is so urgent that there must be immediate legislation.

Robin Young

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 01-210 1156
The Royal Opera
Tonight: *La Traviata* (1900)
Tomorrow: *La Traviata* (1900)
Monday: *La Traviata* (1900)
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THEATRES

COVENT GARDEN 01-210 1156
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CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
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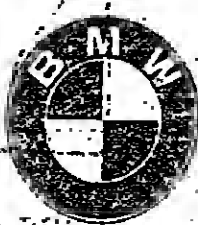
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Commissions: the smaller the better

Lord Rothschild's recent outburst calling into question the composition and work methods of royal commissions was a little unfair to the role he has been chairing, on gambling, whose report comes out tomorrow. His commission had only nine members (that on legal services has 15) and while he rightly wondered at the strange mix of occupations and fields of experience of its members, at least he was not faced with the bane of many a royal commission, the members who believe they are there to represent a particular interest or point of view. The gambling commission did not contain, for instance, a casino owner, a compulsive gambler, a bingo caller, or a football pools operator.

Lord Rothschild, though in the end coming to an equivocal conclusion, was, however, making a serious point, which applies to interest groups and their committees as well as to royal commissions. It is, broadly, that the traditional haphazard method of inquiring into serious national issues may no longer be serving the country as well as it used to, and that a different formula may have to be found.

The trouble with most royal commissions is that they are unwieldy in numbers; contain too many people involved with particular interest groups; do their job on only a part-time basis; and, to put it bluntly, too often contain members of inferior ability and intellectual calibre. The combined effect of these factors is greatly to increase the time taken to produce a report, thus making it easier for a government to ignore its recommendations.

In practice, what usually happens is that much of the commission's serious work, and especially the drafting of the report, is done by two, three or four members who, by force of character, the fact that they have more time to spare, or because they have produced better in effect imposed their views on those of the others. To that extent many a royal commission or committee report is the opinion of a minority of its members, with varying degrees of lip service to the opinions of the majority. The alternative is a report which, correctly reflecting the differing views of all its members, is almost inevitably a muddled, incoherent, and unhelpful document, which every commission member of compromise and reconciliation. Only rarely is a royal commission report the genuine, undiluted, and unanimously reached conclusion of all its members.

The inefficient work methods of a typical royal commission militate against obtaining the highest quality of membership. Although it might at first blush seem that the part-time basis of a commission's activities would enable top-class people to be recruited, experience shows otherwise. In practice, fully employed, busy people of worth cannot take on a task which might occupy one or two full days a week for 18 months, two years or even longer. Commissions and committees therefore tend to contain an unduly high proportion of members who are either retired, or for some other reason are not fully employed; or have the kind of job that can relatively easily allow them to take time off, such as lecturing. That cuts out a large proportion of the best people, who are virtually impossible to tempt to a not-nearly-leader of industry or commerce or even a younger high-flier, to join a commission, because such people cannot spare the time.

Some who are persuaded to take part find the workload more than they had anticipated, contribute less than their ability warrants, and are unable to pull their weight. Their membership is all but wasted. The amount of work required to be done over a relatively lengthy period means that effective choice is limited, and there has been more than a fair share of people of less than high ability on recent commissions. It would be invidious to name names.

The penchant for trying to have as many different points of view as possible represented on a commission can also have an adverse effect. In principle, once on the commission, members are supposed to owe no allegiance to any interest group. But the very way of choosing some commission, the attempt to achieve "balance", means that some members are cast in the role of speaking up for, or defending, a particular point of view. It has got to the stage that some important organizations believe they have a right to have a member on any commission or committee dealing with a subject with some link to their activities.

If it is accepted that the existing system does not produce the best results, what can be done to improve it? It is clear that it would be desirable to have much smaller royal commissions, made up of people of much higher calibre than the case at present. The recruitment of such members would only be possible if the methods of work of commission were to be changed. One possibility would be to appoint three or four high-powered members to work full-time for, say, six months.

Such members would have to be seconded from their jobs, but it would be easier to persuade a company to part with the services of one of its key figures for a once-and-for-all period, but if it did not, there would be two days a week for the member would also be likely to agree to continue paying the member's salary for that period, but if it did not, there should be funds available to ensure that, by joining a commission, the member did not lose out financially. The consideration of issues which affect the entire nation should not be left to the chance of assuming that three or four members of high ability and intellect can be obtained in that way, the logistics of the commission's work would not be difficult. The members should meet for a short while shortly after their appointment, to work out the ground rules of their investigation, draw up the questions they wish to have answered, and establish a relationship with the secretariat. That stage need not take more than two or three weeks.

There would then be an inevitable year or so while evidence was submitted to the commission, and collected by the secretariat. During this period, the commission members would not need to meet frequently, or apart from merely reading the evidence as it came in, devote too much of their time to the inquiry. The crucial stage would come when the evidence had been submitted. At that stage, the members would take their six months off and spend the time wholly in reading, discussing, bearing oral evidence, and eventually drafting the report. That task should not be beyond people of sufficiently high ability, even within that tight time scale.

The resulting report would almost certainly be of high quality. Because there would have been far less pressure for compromise by competing interests, the commission's recommendations would be more incisive, coherent, consistent and therefore influential on government. It would also have taken far less time to produce than reports of commissions and committees now tend to do. The Criminal Law Revision Committee laboured eight years on its report on evidence in criminal trials, and the Pearson Royal Commission on Civil Liability took five years.

Bagshot once remarked that "the English way is a committee—we are born with a belief in a green cloth, clean pens, and a 12 man with grey hair". There has been too much of this since one member of a current commission is under 30—but that approach still governs. Lord Rothschild has served timely warning that it needs to change.

Marcel Berlins

London pride doesn't mean a thing to us

Bernard Levin

We have powerful evidence that the Devil is abroad in the land, that old England's winding-sheet has been woven...

I cannot be the first to have noticed, but I believe I am the first to point out in print, that when nowadays one sees, above all things, the word "Books", unaccompanied either by the name of the bookseller or by an indication of the nature of the books sold, it is probable that what the shop is selling is pornography, mostly in the form of magazines.

In saying that this phenomenon marks yet another sign that the world is coming to an end, I am not basing the claim on the fact that pornography is being sold. I have no need of the stuff myself, but do not (unlike some) believe that what I don't want nobody else should be allowed to have. No; what saddens me is that the word "books", which is surely, in whatever language, a noble sound, the sound of a word yet uttered, should now come to mean something so far removed from its original concept.

Habent sua fœta libelli. But it is not only books. The word "sauna" for instance, when written up on a building in a public street, now has two entirely distinct meanings; it can indicate either that inside you can have the curious heat-and-water treatment that has become so popular in recent years, or that inside you can find women willing to engage in prostitution on the usual terms.

Again, my objection is not to the service, but to the melancholy implications; purveyors of pornography feel inhibited from telling the passer-by what they are selling, so they use (they prostitute, you might say) the word design for very different purposes; purveyors of flesh, similarly constrained (no doubt by similar feelings of delicacy), write up above their premises not "Women for hire", but "Sauna". And if it comes to that, establishments which sell various renegade accessories are as likely to be labelled "Lovecraft" or "Ann Summers" as "Sex shop".

I cannot maintain, though I would like to, that it is only a matter of language. Nor is it even a matter of corrupted thought issuing, as sooner or later it always does, in corrupted words. (Read Orwell on *Politics and the English Language* for the definitive statement on the subject.) But the

most striking and disagreeable aspect is the whole sleazy, fæd atmosphere of this inability to call a spade a spade, together with the apparently unending acceptance of it by almost everybody.

Of course, this particular phenomenon has a long history. I remember the cards which used to appear on newspapers' window-boards (that exchange and mart for unwanted sewing-machines, urgently sought bed-sitting rooms and lost kittens); there were always ladies with "large clear front" and others who were engaged in the scaffolding business and therefore naturally expressed willingness to dismantle erections, and still others who would simply assert that they offered "Tuition", though without specifying in what, presumably feeling (not without cause) that merely giving the name "Miss Wiffly-Rodley" would be sufficient indication, if not adding just in case it wasn't—"Stern disciplinary".

But those devices existed to enable the users to get round the laws of prostitution. Those laws have changed since then, and the laws on pornography have changed even more. The shops selling "Books" for instance, may well include among their stock items that could lead to a prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act or at least a forfeiture order; but it is not in itself a crime to sell magazines showing pictures of couples coupling, let alone of naked women in suggestive poses, and certainly it is not an offence to sell pornography under that name (the word itself is unknown to the law). If the shops announced plainly that what they were selling was pornography, they would be labelled "Porn shops".

The "Saunas" present rather more of a problem, for if they were labelled

"Brothels" they would invite prosecution. (Keeping a brothel is still an offence, apart from which many of them are not, strictly speaking, brothels anyway, since the employees are not resident upon the premises. But there are real saunas, and although a man (let alone a woman) would have to be naïve beyond the bounds of sympathy to enter a fake one under a misapprehension that it was genuine, I do feel rather strongly that an institution associated with fitness, cleanliness, cold water, steam and deep breathing should not suffer the indignity of having to go under the same name as one in which the object is a commercial exercise in sexual stimulation carried out by grim harpards on unhappy men in the shabby back rooms of garishly-lit premises on the last cities.

But of course, the less pleasant areas of our larger cities are less pleasant in more ways than these. Take—it is part of the same phenomenon, after all—the proliferation of cinemas showing pornographic films. Now as a matter of fact most of what looks like cinematic pornography, and is criticized as such by the terrible arms of banners, consists of harmless frolics of the most titillating aspect is the title. All the same, though the widespread display of the advertisements for these films, together with the array of "stills" outside the cinemas themselves, does not, in itself, do anybody any harm, it does give a somewhat narrow view of life, suggesting that it consists entirely of people tearing off other people's underwear. (Besides, since the manufacturers can rarely resist the temptation to put "More to come" on the films, and no serious model would appear in them either, the women waving their bosoms

America chokes on Russian layer cake

William Safire

Washington
What are the Russians up to? One week, they arrest an American businessman on trumped-up spy charges, and the next week they hang a man on an American cell for the way he plays Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rocco Theme. One week, they expand into Afghanistan and increase the pressure in Africa, and the next week, they stun the West with a constructive proposal on the reduction of tanks and troops in Europe.

Next week, in the midst of Stalinist show-trials to shut up dissidents and upstart Jews, they suddenly sail into another round of the strategic arms limitation (SALT) talks with a thoroughly flamboyant American Secretary of State.

Is there a pattern to their moves? Or is some internal convulsion going on between the Kremlin's expansionist, neo-political and ideological purposes, similar to the foreign policy dissension in the troubled Carter White House?

To give coherence to recent Russian conduct, diplomats put forward the layer cake theory: that in its external relations, the Soviet Union deals on different levels, each with its own priority. Within each layer, counter-measures are expected, but they are trying to convince us not to link apples and oranges, not to mix one layer with another.

The top layer is called mutual

national interest and includes ingredients that benefit both superpowers: the Russians need United States grain and technology, and the United States producers can use Soviet markets.

The middle layer is geopolitical competition. In a long-term battle for domination, there are the usual arenas: the "Middle East", where the Russians support radical Arabs and are trying to encircle Israel; the Horn of Africa, to control the Nile headwaters; Africa, where the Russians and their mercenaries are making good progress in taking over a continent whose mineral resources could determine world industrial supremacy; and Europe, where the Russians hope to secure the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The bottom layer is ideological warfare. For two generations, the Soviet Union has been an ideological force, a decade ago the Chinese began challenging the Russian ideological leadership within the communist world, which makes Mr. Brezhnev most sensitive to America's playing of the Chinese card. He is even more

sensitive to the American encouragement of Soviet dissidents, who, the Soviet leaders believe, may be sowing the seeds of the destruction of communist society.

According to this layer cake theory, Soviet diplomacy is prepared to deal within—but not between—the top and middle layers.

Thus, in the top layer of mutual interest, the Russians are willing to encourage cultural exchanges and are willing to talk about the spirit of détente as they pursue a strategic arms limitation treaty. Similarly, though they would never admit it publicly, Russia expects some American economic leverage to be applied in the context of strategic arms limitation negotiations.

In the middle layer—of geopolitical competition for world domination—the Soviet Union is willing, if we continue to acquiesce in the takeover of Africa, that the lesser the military threat in Europe. If we bring them back into the Middle East with a Geneva conference, they may ease the pressure on Saudi Arabia from South Yemen. What the Soviet leaders will not do is permit the trade of

a middle-layer item for a top-layer item; that is why we cannot get them to help Salt along by cutting out the rioting in Africa.

And what the Russians are most determined about is never to mix the third layer with anything—or even to deal within the third layer of ideological warfare, which they know could erode all their gains elsewhere.

This explains why—on the eve of a crucial Salt meeting—the Soviet leaders consider it not in the least inconsistent to deliver a personal insult to the President of the United States, and to thumb their noses at world opinion by bringing to trial for espionage a man for whom Carter has specifically testified.

Will this layer-cake principle prevail? Or will United States policy demand some linkage between the layers? The appealing answer was given over the past weekend when the American Secretary of State reacted to the calculated human-rights repression with the wide-spread cancellation of a couple of junkies, and declared meekly he would go to the meeting to discuss strategic arms limitations with Mr. Gromyko as scheduled.

The united Kremlin knows exactly what it is doing. The divided White House may get a Russian medal for its various sins, or its recoco terms.

© New York Times, 1978.

Men and mink have almost wiped out Britain's otters

The common otter (*Lutra lutra*) has joined the greater horseshoe and mouse-eared bats, the sand lizard, the smooth snake, the natterjack toad and the large blue butterfly on Schedule 1 of the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act, 1975. Under this Act, which stems from a Private Bill introduced by Mr. Peter Hardy, M.P., it is now an offence to kill, injure or capture (or to attempt to do so) the otter in England and Wales.

The name "common" otter is now something of a misnomer. At the turn of the century, J. G. Millard wrote it would be difficult to name any county in England, Scotland and Ireland where it does not exist, and until 1957—apart from a rise in the immediate post-war years—the population remained relatively static. By the early 1960s, however, it had become clear that the otter's numbers had declined dramatically.

In 1968 the Mammal Society, at the request of the Nature Conservation Society and the Council for Nature, conducted an investigation into the status of the otter in Britain: it was found that between 1957 and 1967 there had been a drop in the population of about 40 to 50 per cent. The areas worst affected were those in the south and east, while those least affected were in the north (especially Scotland) and west.

In 1973 a second survey (planned to finish in 1979) was begun which showed that between 1968 and 1971 the overall population had remained fairly stable. In 1977 the Nature Conservation Society started two independent surveys, complementary to those of the Mammal Society, the results of which are to be published in 1978-79. Also in 1977 the Joint Otter Group (set up in the previous year by the Nature Conservation Council and the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation) issued its first report—the most comprehensive to date—on the status of the otter in Britain.

Trapping for pelts and the hunting

There are several reasons for the otter's decline, among them disturbance by man (the otter is an extremely shy creature) whether as camper, hiker, angler or yachtsman; riparian "improvement" resulting in habitat destruction; water pollution through the use of organochlorine pesticides which reduce reproductive potential (the populations most affected have been in corn-growing areas where seed dressings have been used); persecution by fishery management; the setting of fyke nets for eels, in which otters have been drowned; the severe winter of 1962-3, which was worst in the south and east; road casualties; trappings for pelts; disease; hunting; and inter-specific competition with the mink, widely naturalized alien mink.

Measures designed to combat the otter's decline include the provision of artificial bolts in "otter havens", with restricted human access, where the otter can retire during the day to avoid disturbance; some restriction on waterway recreational activities; controlled riparian clearance; the avoidance of the use of herbicides; the retention, wherever possible, of natural features such as meanders, pools, islands, shoals, and banks; the limitation of drainage for land reclamation.

In 1967 the Masters of Otter Hounds Association announced a voluntary ban on the hunting of otters; this was a progressive step in trying to halt the otter's decline, although the continued draining of waters for otters caused



considerable disturbance, a sound pregnant bitch otter, believed to abort after being hunted.

In my view one of the most important reasons for the otter's decline is inter-specific competition with the mink.

The mink was originally introduced to Britain from North America in 1929 for fur-farming, and escapes soon to place. The first mink breeding in the wild occurred shortly after the war, but was not until 1957 that a mink was established in the wild (in Devon). Today this voracious alien-bivore, which causes harm among our native wildlife, is well established throughout the British Isles.

The Mammal Society's 1979 investigation found that "there is no evidence that the introduction of the mink has in any way affected the otter population". The decline of the otter, however, has coincided with the spread of the mink, and seems not unreasonable to suppose that these fluctuations may be connected. At the very least it is probable that mink colonized those waters vacant by otters, and that the former have prevented the latter from becoming established in the previous haunts of the mink. There is also evidence of some correlation between the absence of otter and the presence of mink in some areas, through competition for food; this competition may be excessive, as the otter's diet of the mink is much more broadly based, but nevertheless exists. It is also possible that fatal mink attacks have been one of the causes of the spread and displacement in British otters.

Driven from streams into rivers

Research in Sweden suggests that otters will not breed where mink abound, and in the Alut mountains of Mongolia mink have driven otters from mountainous areas into the larger rivers of the foothills.

During the last decade otter work has done valuable bounds in hunting and killing mink; if this pressure could be intensified and the trapping programme increased, it might well have a profound effect on the otter's recovery.

Christopher Lever

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The barge Fred sat in burns again

London used to run on oars before it jammed on wheels. The grandest surviving stage barges have been beautifully restored, and go on show to the public today, on dry land, unfortunately, rather than their native element, the Thames.

The Duke of Edinburgh formally opened the new house for the royal barges at the National Maritime Museum last night. He had supper in the Queen's House, music in the Great Hall, and an escort of eight royal watermen, two more than his official complement. This last superfluity arose because other barges, like a burnished throne, burning with schools of gilt dolphins and shoals of mermaids, William Kent designed it for Frederick, Prince of Wales, eldest son of George II, of whom Horace Walpole could find nothing much more unkind to say

than: "Here lies Fred, who was alive and is dead". Kent was approached to be a coach-painter before he turned fashion designer and architect, and what he did was to take the wheels off a barge and fix it on a Thames wharf. His theatrical after coach echoes some of the designs he had just used in Chiswick House, and gave poor Fred the prettiest of funerals. The barge was inventoried, as well as one of the quickest.

Fred's barge was last used at the royal opening of the Coal Exchange in 1949. It has been restored to its original splendour, and is now used to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. But a pronounced warning in the hows beside Kent's characteristic wavy motif might make Fred weep if he tried to rise in it today. Purist ancient mariners prefer Queen Mary's Shallop, nearly 300 years old, as more ship-shape and seaworthy than a floating coach. Fred's barge, like all Thames wharves, has exaggerated long bows and a flat bottom so that it could be rowed right up onto the shore and Fred could get on or off without minding his bows wet. The Shallop built for William of Orange's Queen Mary has bluff bows and could ride rougher water. George V and Queen Mary were rowed in it at Henley in 1912 and in the peace procession on the Lifford River in 1919. But Lord what a sad time it is to see no boats upon the River; and ice cream pavers blow all up and down White Hall Court.

LONDON DIARY

Sit least wrinkles have abandoned asking you are going to do when you grow up.



King of dykes

The finals at Wimbledon can be anticlimax. In any case there was a rather attraction on Saturday afternoon. Beckton Sewage Treatment Works threw itself hospitably open to the public to celebrate its new

Doctor Saturn

And a helated happy birthday from us too, Mr. Paganini, Secretary. There is something indefinably encouraging for the rest of us in the str being made about the extreme youth of someone who has just reached 40. But there is a greater oldity in the conversation of the brightest and best of us, who are now in the prime of life, who have evidently adopted to go with Dr. David Owen as indissolubly as Achilles is fleet of foot in spite of his varicose veins. Dr. Owen, Chairman of the Literature and Media Committee with Spencer for all eternity.

In the 17th century, the longest in last weeks birthday essays, we seemed to mean something like inscurable, exciting, brown-haired, darkly handsome, and pensive, in the manner of a young man, a strange that our credulous and superstitious age should be so mistaken about astrology. In that ancient mumbo-jumbo, Saturn, the planet born under the influence of Saturn, was supposed to be a sluggish, cold, and gloomy temperament, irrespective of the colour of his or her hair. In planetary the Moon is said to be the protuberant muscle under the middle finger. In the same way, that for palmists, poor fools, the Mons Veneris is the fleshy muscle under the thumb. Outside epic convention epithets are a mistake.

Recording Angel

Papers, even papers of record, necessarily have a worm's-eye view. Our oldest periodical, The Annual Register, has the time to look at our rulers with glass, if not with eagle's eyes. In the 219th edition published yesterday its editor, H. V. Bodson, considers describing 1977 as the year of violence, and lists its rich horrors with Tacitean relish. Happily Burke's eloquent successor comes to the conclusion that what is growing is not violence, but our consciousness of violence and our concern for human rights.

What no scribe

There is no scribe at Blundell House, the dining room of the Blundells. Club is thicker than usual with celebratory brandy. Eric Donaldson, one of the brightest and best of biographers, has been commissioned with the approval of the family to write the official biography of T. G. Woodhouse. She invites letters and stories from all good Eggs, Beans and Crumpets. In view of the unpleasantness of this, it tends to happen to books of Woodhouse, she had better hide the manuscript under her camikiekers or in some other traditional cache.

Conversation at Marlborough Street Court yesterday. Mr. Simon, a common visitor, in a final £3 for being drunk and disorderly in the West End. "Do you take American B.P.?" The Magistrate: "I am not a matter for me, but believe it is a very good company, and I think we can take a chance." In fact, Simon was not a matter for me, but believe it is a very good company, and I think we can take a chance. In fact, Simon was not a matter for me, but believe it is a very good company, and I think we can take a chance.

Philip Howard



THE CONDITION OF SUCCESS

A constant theme in European affairs for the past decade has been the strong desire to move towards economic and monetary union. For most of the decade the initiative has come from those who wanted the European venture to move on to its next stage of development, having successfully completed the establishment of the customs union. The history of those ten years, however, is made up of one initiative after another coming to nothing.

Politicians, who have been understandably in favour of maintaining the impetus of the EEC, now have the additional motive of trying to create a monetary union based on strong currencies, namely the wish to find some answer to the present chronic instability of the foreign exchange markets. The position that Chancellor Schmidt took at Bremen is strongly influenced by his concern that the weakness of the dollar and the speculation in the German mark and other currencies is causing severe problems for the German economy.

Real advantages would indeed flow from the growth of a zone of monetary stability in Europe. Those who operate in the real world of commerce and industry have found that the present level of instability between currencies adds another massive factor of uncertainty to the decisions that have to be made. Such uncertainty can only reduce confidence, investment and the general level of economic activity, thus diverting attention from an alternative focus to the dollar in the international

monetary system, based on the relative economic and industrial importance of Europe, could over time provide a basis for a desirable shift away from the present dominance of the dollar.

Under existing political and economic conditions in the EEC, however, it is unrealistic to believe that these advantages can be achieved through technical cooperation at the level of central banks and the pooling of gold and currency reserves, no matter on how large a scale. For the instability of EEC currencies is a reflection of the wide differences of economic policies being followed by member countries. It may be said that there are such large adjustments to make it would be disastrous to have a system which prevented us making them.

If eventually a plan based on the Franco-German proposals at the Bremen summit is brought into operation it will be bound to fail (and fail sooner rather than later) unless simultaneously there is an equally clear and very strong commitment by the participating countries to putting their monetary policies on a converging course. That means sufficiently tight discipline to make every currency a strong one. In these circumstances, the Prime Minister's attitude at Bremen of scepticism, combined with cautious cooperation, seems to have been realistic.

His concern, expressed yesterday in the House, that the United Kingdom would require substantial transfers of resources to compensate for its relative lack of a strong currency block, however, misses the central

point. This is that the exchange rate of each country reflects its broad economic performance. In particular it reflects the thrust of its monetary policy, both directly through the exchanges and indirectly through its determining effect on the level of domestic inflation.

If individual currencies, therefore, are to establish and maintain stable relationships between themselves, it is essential that the underlying economic policies should be similar. Once the pattern of individual real economies becomes more stable it will become natural and possible for their currencies to grow closer together. Unless those basic policies converge, no grandiose monetary scheme has any chance of success. Countries, jointly or severally, can only have hard currencies, if they follow hard currency economics.

The correct priority, therefore, is for the potential members of the European currency block to combine and coordinate their monetary and other economic policies. An agreement to equalize monetary growth is the vital element of that. Such a proposal will raise objections from the traditional quarters of national sovereignty involved in the process. In the sense that any voluntary commitment in a wider context involves some compromise in this direction the objections have some validity. But, if economic and monetary stability is ever to be achieved, that issue will have to be faced squarely. If we accept a common rate of growth of money supply, we can then have stable currencies.

THE CHOICE FOR MAURITANIA

The coup in Mauritania is hardly a surprise. President Mokhtar Ould Daddah has ruled the country since it became independent in 1960, which is well beyond average longevity for an Arab or African ruler. Moreover the state and political structures of this desert land are firmly even by Third World standards. Until independence it was little more than a rough outline on the map of French West Africa. Its population, in an area equivalent to France and Spain together, was then estimated at 650,000, of whom 450,000 were nomadic Arab-Berber and the remainder black farmers settled along the right bank of the River Senegal and having more in common with the Senegalese on the opposite bank than with their legal compatriots. And the territory as a whole was at that time claimed by Morocco.

All things considered, President Ould Daddah's regime was until 1976 a surprising success. In exploiting the country's substantial mineral resources (mainly iron ore and copper) he maintained a close and necessary cooperation with France but stopped short of unseemly dependence, and was careful to make all the right African and Arab gestures.

A key element in his policy until 1975 was the close relationship he maintained with Algeria. This did not prevent a gradual improvement of relations with Morocco, whose King Hassan came round by the late 1960s to accepting Mauritania's independence. Indeed when in October 1974 he made his secret agreement with King Hassan to partition the then Spanish Sahara he almost certainly did so in the belief that this arrangement had the blessing of the Algerian President. But either this was a misunderstanding of President Boumedienne for some reason changed his attitude to the Sahara issue in the course of 1975, the result was Mauritania's embroilment in the Moroccan conflict, or the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, this conflict has proved disastrous for Mauritania in general and for President Ould Daddah's regime in particular.

Mauritania, which until then had maintained only token armed forces, has been obliged both to divert much of its income into military expenditure and to accept the aid of a substantial Moroccan expeditionary force—a development which many Mauritanians were bound to view

uneasily in view of Morocco's only recently abandoned claim to their territory. The nomadic Mauritanians have a great deal in common with the population of the Western Sahara, and many of them undoubtedly feel that in the Moroccan-Polisario conflict they have got on the wrong side. Finally the need for direct French intervention to deal with Polisario attacks has been a further humiliation.

It is not yet clear whether the officers who have now seized power favour a more effective prosecution of the war or a switch back to alliance with Algeria, presumably implying negotiations with the Polisario. Either way there is likely to be more trouble ahead. To continue the war means to accentuate dependence on France and Morocco. But to do a deal with Polisario means almost certainly a new conflict with Morocco, and possibly also with Senegal, whose President threatened publicly not long ago to counter the Polisario demand for self-determination with an analogous one for the black minority in Mauritania. The cynical partition clinched on Franco's deathbed has not yet exhausted its poisonous effects.

THE GREATEST SNOOKER PLAYER EVER

There are few sports about which it can be said, beyond argument, that one man has played it better than anyone else in its history. Joe Davis, who died yesterday, was, quite simply, the best snooker player ever. He was world champion for twenty years, and ruled unchallenged. He was the first player to make the maximum possible snooker break. His achievements, in terms of the records he set, were prodigious. But there was more in his importance than mere figures. Joe Davis was, for a time almost single-handed, responsible for snooker, achieving the degree of respectability and serious attention which it now commands. He brought snooker into prominence at a time when billiards was the only respectable game which gentlemen would consent to play, and lived to see it outstrip its more

genteel cousin in international popularity. He took snooker out of its smoke-filled halls, with their public image of gangsterism and mispent youth, and placed it in a dinner-jacketed setting that could give umbrage to no moral reformer.

The phenomenal success of the For Black television series, and the even greater audience viewing figures earlier this year for the world snooker championship, can be traced back directly to Joe Davis's influence in popularizing the sport. A game of snooker is, admittedly, an exceptionally television event, especially in colour. A single game lasts just the right amount of time to retain the viewer's attention. The cameras, through the variety of angles, and the fact that snooker is able to provide the viewer with an almost perfect appreciation of the skills exhibited by the contestants,

Above all, perhaps, because the camera is able to encompass the entire table in one shot, all the disadvantages from which moving games on a large field of action suffer disappear. The viewer's attention is concentrated throughout on a small rectangle on which the entire action of the game is taking place. This, as Mr Ingram has observed in the Spectator, is the advantage of Wimbledon on television.

Snooker is now a big-money game, and deserves to be so. Its leading exponents are as skillful as those of any other sport, and reaching the top in snooker is as difficult as doing so in any other sporting activity. It should not be forgotten that, if the rewards are now substantial, and if snooker is now so widely and widely accepted both as a leisure and a spectator sport, much of the credit must lie with Joe Davis's pioneering efforts.

Locked train doors

From the Rev Canon H. N. McClure
Sir, Sidney Smith wrote two letters to the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle* on the subject of "locking in" on railways. The railway concerned was the Great Western. In his first letter of May 21, 1942, he complained about the custom of locking passengers in on both sides. The directors of the railway asserted that locking in was necessary in a recent rash of drunken people from attempting to get out.

Sidney was concerned with the two hundred persons who are not "locked in" and not "locked out" and "locked in" to the railway. He was concerned with the preservation of some order, and over whom the sudden lockdown was to deliver his sermon to the directors. "In all other cases of life there is order," he wrote. "The master of his own house, except he chooses to go from his home to Bridgewater, there is the Habes Carous is refused." In a second letter dated June 7, 1942, Sidney suggested that "before things would be put in order and produce a code of proper rules, I hope," he wrote, "it will not be the bench of bishops; but should it be so desired, let the

burnt bishop—the unwilling Latimer—remember that, however painful gradual conversion by fire may be, his death will produce unspeakable benefit to the multitudes. Sir, his history repeated itself?"

H. N. McCLEURE,
The Rectory,
Wilmington,
Bathwick,
Bath, Wiltshire,
July 7.

Churchill's gold policy

From Mr Robert G. Payne
Sir, It is unfortunate that in his *Guest Column* (June 14) Dr. O'Loughlin has made, gratuitously, two erroneous references to Sir Winston Churchill. It was not Churchill, but Dr. O'Loughlin, who spoke of "lies, damned lies, and statistics".

More important, Dr. O'Loughlin greatly distorts Churchill's attitude with regard to the return to the gold standard. He need only refer to Martin Gilbert's biography to see that Churchill had serious doubts as to the wisdom of the policy, and that its possible effect on employment formed part of the basis for those doubts. The return was made after a great deal of consideration, and under heavy pressure from his advisers.

Although he must bear the ultimate responsibility, it is entirely wrong to imply that he acted recklessly. On the contrary, had it not been for the advice he received from the Treasury, it is more than likely that he would have decided against the move. As Mr Gilbert shows, he was much influenced by the contrary views of Keynes.

ROBERT G. PAYNE,
The Oaks,
Oak Road,
Mottram St Andrew,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
June 16.

The Warwick Canaletto

From Mr George J. Levy
Sir, Could somebody please explain the reasons why the Government in answer to parliamentary questions from both sides of the House of Commons declined to make a commitment to give a special grant to save the Canaletto of Warwick Castle for Birmingham Art Gallery last Friday afternoon, but only four hours later authorised the special grant of £11,000 needed to buy the pictures?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
119 Mount Street, W.1,
July 9.

Proposed increase in top salaries

From Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton

Sir, None of your readers who is familiar with even the rough outlines of the debate about salaries for "top people" will have been moved by the self-consciously clever letters (July 5) from the Warden of Nuffield and the President of Chichester. They may, perhaps, have been surprised that a fairly senior academic and cleric should have chosen your columns in which to strike such a note as, indeed, I was. Less than words may have caused misunderstanding among those not in touch with you may agree that a few relevant facts are worth rehearsing.

The answer to the Warden's question "why the vast difference?" is quite simply that the top people upon whose salaries Lord Boyle's committee has recently reported are not "top people" in the sense of the community. Lord Boyle has suggested, measured by the crude yardstick of salary, that it is between three and four times as much. Sir Norman Chester, plainly doing his best, but on any objective view a factor of that order must seem about right.

Canon Walker's contribution, although more tendentious, is even less helpful for he must know perfectly well that the people under discussion actually receive £25,000 a year, or anything like it. From your own columns he could have verified that a top person receiving £40,000 gross will be lucky to leave more than a third of that for his net. He fails, or perhaps seeks to lead your readers into the same trap over the Schumacher differential, for he must also know perfectly well that, certainly in the armed forces (and in much of industry) the recommended seven to one factor between the pay of the Chief of the Defence Staff and a very junior other rank is now reduced in practice to about five to one, net, of course. These are the figures which matter to those concerned with the debate, and it does not help forward any reasoned discussion of a highly important national problem to impute greed and pride to those who, on the whole, do an excellent job and customarily remain silent when their affairs are thus misrepresented.

To dispose of any suggestion that mine is a personal reaction from one who is *partis pris*, it may be as well to add that, in common with some 15 other five-star officers who have had the privilege of becoming the professional soldiers of the Service, I receive (after 50 years on the Army List) a too-indulgent half-pay, rather than a (much larger) index-linked pension.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,
P. J. HILL-NORTON,
Admiral of the Fleet,
Kings Mill House,
North Nuffield,
Reading,
Surrey,
July 6.

Money for art galleries

From Peter Lazarus

Sir, Following John Petros's excellent letter (July 1) with regard to England's artistic heritage, I would like to support all that he has said. In which the entire action of the curators of the museums is to be that our directors and curators of provincial museums are extremely ill-served by the "poppers" that pull the strings, that is to say, the various financial committees that control their expenditure from County Hall.

In the case of our own City of Bristol, no money has been allocated to the Museum and Art Gallery to allow them to purchase new acquisitions and very little is available for the redecoration, refurbishing and exhibiting of either the existing exhibits or even the new exhibits. Added to this, no money is available for adequate supervision by guards, let alone the curatorial staff.

On many occasions we have appealed for the Museum and Art Gallery to be opened at times when the public really want the museums to be open, but to little or no avail as the Arts and Leisure Committee, the body that controls most City museums, are not prepared to meet the expenses of the double time or more that they have to pay to the guardians in supervise security of our museums. There is no doubt that we are in danger of losing our art treasures to overseas purchasers, but we are that our directors and curators of provincial museums are extremely ill-served by the "poppers" that pull the strings, that is to say, the various financial committees that control their expenditure from County Hall.

There is no instant panacea to help cure this particular problem: the setting up of local lotteries with the profits devoted to the arts and leisure department of each city or town might be one solution, the more obvious solution is that the museums should be open to the public but the public should be charged an admission fee which would go a long way to alleviating this particular problem.

We could well learn from the remarkable von Hirsch sale of a few days ago, where the various German states were in a position to support their museums with many millions of pounds. An example better than 40 per cent of the profits of the more football pools in Baden-Württemberg is allocated to arts and leisure. I believe that during the year 1977 the German states have devoted to museums and art galleries, went a long way to helping with sports, as well as the cultural activities.

Our short-sighted attitudes towards this situation will without a doubt, cause us to lose many more important works of art and fail to serve the public as we should.

PETER LAZARUS,
Chairman of the Friends of Bristol City Art Gallery,
The Downs School,
Charlton House,
Wrexham,
Bristol,
July 3.

The Prince and the Pope

From Mr Amédée Turner, QC

Sir, There is no reason why the Queen and the Pope should not take communion from the hands of a Roman Catholic and Anglican priest respectively, just as we all could from the hands of the other church once this has been agreed. But that does not in the least mean that a future Pope will ever be Anglican or a future Monarch Catholic. I see no time-bomb under the throne and no reason why the Monarch should not remain Head of the Church of England.

Indeed if marriage laws are relaxed there is no reason why the Head of the Church of England should not marry a Catholic. Only one requirement remains and that is that the Monarch is Anglican, and thus it follows that the heir to the Throne must be too.

I suggest time should be taken to discuss the issue of ecumenism, as your Religious Affairs Correspondent does, seems to me to be unjustified sensationalism.

Yours ever,
AMÉDÉE E. TURNER,
1 Essex Court,
Temple, EC4,
July 4.

From Miss Margaret White

Sir, Lord Hailsham in the course of his letter (July 7) illustrating from personal experience the difficulties encountered by couples in the case of conflicting religious dogma, states that without marriage his long-term would have been interrupted by a series of squalid and despicable episodes. We are to infer that Lord Hailsham's view of a relationship not within the strict ecclesiastical marriage bond is, in fact, "squalid and despicable"? The corollary is that institutional approval confers a monopoly of beauty and respect. This would seem to reveal, above all, a narrow, dogmatic approach to human relationships.

"What would the theologians have thought about that?" asks Lord Hailsham. I suggest that they would simply have shown more Christian charity and compassion (not coincidentally both virtues also Lord Hailsham professes so eloquently to advocate).

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WHITE,
15 Tavistock Court,
Tavistock Square, W.C1,
July 7.

From Mr Alan Harrison

Sir, The solemnity of calling the sovereign "head of the Church of England" is perhaps to be expected to some journals, but I do not expect to find it in the *Times*. The *Times* (July 4). Only three monarchs have been so styled: Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. Queen Mary repudiated this title, which has never been revived, all monarchs since 1559 being "Supreme Governors".

The recent antics of certain members of the royal family, and the reactions they have provoked among the Anglican hierarchy leave me, as an ordinary Anglican somewhat amazed.

The teaching of the Holy Roman Church on mixed marriages is well known, and Prince Michael seems to have been guilty of an error well known in every Anglican parish—that of making arrangements for the wedding and then expecting the clergyman to fit in with them. The clergyman in this case, the Pope, was not willing to fit in. I do not think that the Holy Father could reasonably be expected to acquiesce in a system which has members of his Church and their spouses for the throne. Nor could the Anglican hierarchy press the claims of ecumenism, when they have blithely ignored Roman Catholic "warning shots" with regard to women priests and the Ten Propositions.

The Prince's remarks are perhaps ironic, in that they were spoken at a gathering of a body which is among the most dogmatic and theologically controversial of

all Christian churches and sects. While the Salvation Army is widely and rightly known for its good works, by rejecting sacraments it is making, as is possible, a dogmatic stand as is possible.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HARRISON,
16 Baslow Road,
Bloxwich,
Walsall,
Staffordshire,
July 4.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Few non-Christians care very much whether Christians believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, or whether they argue with each other about doctrine, so long as they leave the rest of us alone; though we don't see how you can be a Christian without being dogmatic about some doctrine. But some of us can't help wondering about some of the incidental remarks in Prince Charles's address to the Salvation Army International Congress (delivered on June 30 and printed in *The Times* on July 5).

He mentioned "a host of outlandish philosophies and inhuman beliefs"; Christians should perhaps remember that to many of us there is an outlandish philosophy and an inhuman belief.

He mentioned three "things which matter the first was that 'what we should be worried about now is whether people are going to become atheists'. Really? Why does this matter? And what does it have to do with the other two things? Whether they are going to be given ideas of what is right and wrong, and whether they are going to be given an awareness of the things of the spirit and of the meaning and of the beauty of man? Does Prince Charles seriously suppose that belief in God is necessary to ethical or spiritual or aesthetic development? If so, he has fallen into the dogmatic trap he told us to avoid. He made no mention of atheists and agnostics in this country will infer that he doesn't know what he is talking about."

NICOLAS WALTER,
Managing Editor,
Nationalist Press Association,
38 Arlington Street, N.1,
July 5.

From Miss Eirlys Roberts

Sir, Am't people odd? The Reverend P. R. R. (Peters), July 7, suggests that the wedding of Prince Michael of Kent and the Baroness von Reibnitz could have taken place "without all this fuss" if the Baroness having promised to do all in her power to bring the children up as Catholics, Prince Michael had promised to do all in his power to bring them up as Anglicans. It doesn't sound to me like a recipe for a happy marriage—or happy children either.

What about a promise that the children of any such marriage should be brought up as Christians? Yours sincerely,
EIRLYS ROBERTS,
8 Lloyd Square, W.C1,
July 7.

From Dr A. L. Rouse, FBA

Sir, May I express the view of the great bulk of people today who no longer believe doctrine or dogma. Namely: those who will believe nonsense must expect awkward consequences.

Yours sincerely,
A. L. ROUSE,
All Souls College,
Oxford,
July 6.

From Dr Nicholas Lash

Sir, As a Roman Catholic—a theologian and a devout socialist, may I add: God bless Lord Hailsham. Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS LASH,
The Faculty of Divinity,
St John's Street,
Cambridge.

British press service

From Mr Ian Harvey

Sir, The reported dispute between Mr Peter Jay and Mr Lawrence O'Keefe of British Information Services underlines some important questions of principle and practice which are not always easy to define. The Information Services are an instrument of government. Overseas, under Foreign Office control, it must be their primary task to present government policy. In so doing they are well advised to avoid conducting matters as if they were a machine of a political party even though that is the party in power. The dividing line here is often difficult to draw and it is one of the strongest arguments for an all-party foreign policy.

The picture which has to be presented is of an effective democratic society in a world in which democracy is the only alternative. Again, opposition views should not be stifled. Anthony Eden got entangled over this when he tried to suppress RBC overseas broadcasts of opposition view over Suez. His justification was that British lives were at risk. In the present case there is no such justification.

With the growth of communications across the world through television the ability to suppress news and views is reduced. This makes it all the more important that British Information Services should not be regarded as a propaganda instrument. There is a difficult distinction to be drawn between the presentation of a case and propaganda for a case. It is disturbing to read that Mr Jay, supported by Dr Owen, should now be plotting to cut down the resources of the BIS. No country is better equipped and more professional in the field of public relations and information than the United States. Consequently our performance there must be of a high order if it is not to be either derided or disregarded. It may well be that the service is in need of reorganization but that is quite another matter. Mr Peter Jay with his background in the media is admirably qualified to know what ought to be done. A reduction in our ability to communicate can surely not be the answer.

The Foreign Office has always

tended to treat the Information Services with scant respect and have off into them those whose futures are not considered bright. When I was made responsible for those Services by the late Lord Selwyn Lloyd I endeavoured without much success to change that attitude. It was in that capacity that I was sent to the United States in the post office to see what could and should be done to improve our relationships. For that reason I can appreciate both the position of Mr Peter Jay and of Mr O'Keefe.

In my opinion the BIS is really one of striking a sensible balance. It would be unfortunate if the Information Services, and with them the reputations of Britain and the Foreign Service, were to be damaged by what would appear to be a clash of ideologies and personalities.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HARVEY,
Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Foreign Office,
28a Star Street, W2,
July 8.

Lady Margaret Hall

From Dr Deborah J. Sharp
Sir, Being a recent graduate of the Lady Margaret Hall (1970) I regard myself as holding contemporary views on most issues and I am not overjoyed to find that the admission of men in the college in 1979. However, I am sure that I am not the only member of the oldest women's college in Oxford which last week-end attracted many hundreds of "old girls" back to the hall to celebrate its centenary, who were dismayed to read of the appointment of a man as the new principal of the college.

After a succession of memorable women as principal of the college, I find it hard to believe that in this day of equality, there is not a woman of sufficient standing to undertake this job. Is this not taking co-education too far?—I am sure that no man's college is co-educating a reciprocal gesture.

Yours faithfully,
DEBORAH J. SHARP,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford,
June 30.

The dangers to personal liberty

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, It is perhaps not surprising that the pro which has upheld a minor party socialist government should be anxious to deny the conception that the prime danger to personal liberty today comes from the left. But Mr Steel (July 3) must be contradicted when he asserts to misrepresentation. If Conservatives are really more forthright about the individual liberties which proclaim beneath liberty and private enterprise than the central link between liberty and democracy, they are surely right to stress what Mr Steel apparently does not understand to be less emphatic about a pluralism which is constantly abused.

A limited democracy is not induced by the best protector of individual liberty and is better than any other form of limited government, but an unlimited democracy is probably worse than any other form of the limited government, because its government loses the power even to do what it thinks right if it is growing up which its members do not think otherwise. If Mrs Thatcher said that free choice is to be exercised in the market place, in the belief that she has merely freed the market, she has merely freed the market for individual freedom while the second is not free choice, or at least not free choice, but under the government of an unlimited democracy which cannot be simply and easily a free society requires "ethical justice" as an enforceable principle, in that it requires a degree of active environment intervention, not that "we have not created the conditions of liberty for all our citizens". The other things may also be desirable, but it is simply a matter of how to secure them as part of liberty, which in fact the striving for them may come into conflict. Mr Steel would continue the old error that with a little more "ethical justice" he would make a new thing, which is finally, perhaps, the only official proclamation Mr Steel might wish to mind his language. Even penalties for obscene publications would not mean "censorship".

Whether whether he can embolden me what he is talking about, or discrimination" means in English. And to his last paragraph, I have undeniably made a major contribution to the advancement of political discussion. When he writes that some professed defenders of liberty are "supporting the doctrine of the guilty of criminal intent" and the only expression preceding it which in any sense can be called a definition is the last but one sentence preceding it about "the narrow freedom" for the privileged few, which he made no attempt to make, which is a very serious matter, this can logically mean only that people who think as I do "are guilty of criminal intent".

I will concede him the narrow freedom to so despise me, but he must not suppose that I intend to see the leadership of a party great Liberal party in the hands of a man with such opinions.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. HAYEK,
Unruhstrasse 27,
D-7800 Freiburg,
Baden,
Germany,
July 4.

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, *The Times* today (July 8) reports that Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has held up the Soviet Union as an example of a country that consistently honours its international obligations. I hope his Embassy in London will by now have informed him of my complaint made on my behalf yesterday by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the Soviet breach of its obligations under the International Convention: the frontier officials accused me of what under Soviet law is a serious crime and denied my requests to be put immediately in touch with our representatives in the Soviet Union.

It was held, against my will, for 24 hours at Chon, on the Soviet side of the Soviet-Bulgarian border and submitted to a secret trial in which the verdict of guilty came first and the inquiry into what had happened was on a moot's motoring tour of the Ukraine, the Crimea, the Don Basin and Georgia and I was charged with having engaged in "propaganda and agitation against the Soviet Union". Having failed to find any supporting evidence for this nonsense, the KGB men fell back on a pile of incriminating letters which they said had been sent by me to the Soviet Union. The letters they cited came only from the last few days of my visit and given the Soviet postal system, could not have arrived the normal way. Soviet propaganda distortion of what had been friendly conversations, others had no bearing whatsoever on what had been said.

I await Mr Gromyko's apologies. Sincerely,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belize Road, NW6,
July 8.

Soviet frontier incident

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, *The Times* today (July 8) reports that Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has held up the Soviet Union as an example of a country that consistently honours its international obligations. I hope his Embassy in London will by now have informed him of my complaint made on my behalf yesterday by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the Soviet breach of its obligations under the International Convention: the frontier officials accused me of what under Soviet law is a serious crime and denied my requests to be put immediately in touch with our representatives in the Soviet Union.

It was held, against my will, for 24 hours at Chon, on the Soviet side of the Soviet-Bulgarian border and submitted to a secret trial in which the verdict of guilty came first and the inquiry into what had happened was on a moot's motoring tour of the Ukraine, the Crimea, the Don Basin and Georgia and I was charged with having engaged in "propaganda and agitation against the Soviet Union". Having failed to find any supporting evidence for this nonsense, the KGB men fell back on a pile of incriminating letters which they said had been sent by me to the Soviet Union. The letters they cited came only from the last few days of my visit and given the Soviet postal system, could not have arrived the normal way. Soviet propaganda distortion of what had been friendly conversations, others had no bearing whatsoever on what had been said.

I await Mr Gromyko's apologies. Sincerely,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belize Road, NW6,
July 8.

Finding a doctor

From Mrs Nicholas Hinton

Sir, I am moving house and so need a new GP. So far I have tried eight. The first, recommended by my present doctor, told me I was "too living" on the wrong side of the road. On the next five, all names given to me by the Family Practitioner's Committee, three claimed that their lists were full, the fourth that evening surgery (a necessity for anybody at work) the fifth although unable to help recommended two other doctors. One of these does not appear to answer the telephone and the other, when calling him on Tuesday, informs me through a recorded message that he is dead for the weekend.

What a waste to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the National Health Service! Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
13 Ashington Road, SW6,
July 4.

Former Italian
chemical chief
charged with
fraud, page 18

Boiler group's withdrawal marks final failure of scheme for power mergers

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Government plans to bring about a reorganisation of the power engineering industry in Britain have finally ended in failure.

Northern Engineering Industries yesterday said it had withdrawn from talks which were being held in London to form a National Boiler Company.

The withdrawal marks the complete disintegration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Restructuring of the Power Engineering Industry, which was set up in 1976.

The committee's proposals, which were published in December 1977, and were accepted by the Government, called for the creation of a new power engineering industry, which would be formed by the merger of the existing power engineering companies.

The committee's proposals were based on the assumption that the power engineering industry was in a state of decline, and that a reorganisation was necessary to ensure its survival.

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Go-aheads for British Aerospace on a £250m airliner project and for British Airways to buy 19 Boeings

By Kenneth Owen and David Felton

Two major decisions announced by the Government last night lifted some of the uncertainty about the British aerospace and airline industries.

British Aerospace was given the go-ahead to develop the HS146 short haul airliner, a project which will create about 12,000 new jobs—and British Airways received permission to buy 19 Boeing 737 airliners at a cost of £120m.

The long-awaited decision on the HS146 "bus jet", which will cost £250m to develop, was obviously timed to coincide with the British Airways announcement in an effort to define the position of the airlines which were to be developed.

The Government, in instructing the airline to buy the British BAC 1-11, Work on the HS146, which will probably now be known as the British Aerospace 146, was virtually put on ice.

The announcement was made at the former Hawker Siddeley factory at Hatfield, where the design work was done.

At Hatfield, where the design work was done, the new aircraft will be carried out from parts made in other British Aerospace factories and in some European countries.

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Monthly slowdown in wholesale price rises

By Caroline Atkinson

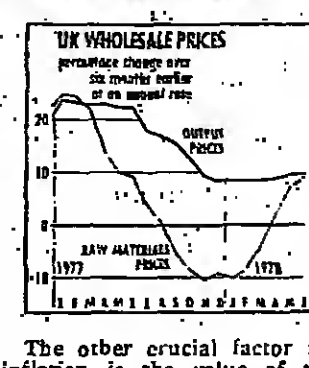
Wholesale price inflation slowed in June but a reacceleration is expected in the next few months.

The impact on import prices of sterling's fall earlier this year has yet to show up in the prices charged by manufacturers.

In June there was a rise of 1.1 per cent in factory gate prices of wholesale goods. This is slightly below the 0.6 per cent increase in May, but a substantial larger increase is expected in July.

There was a bigger improvement on the input side. The cost of manufacturers' raw materials rose by 2 per cent last month, compared with rises of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent in each of the previous three months.

The annual rate of rise in wholesale output prices fell for the eleventh successive month from 9.1 per cent in May to 9 per cent in June. This is its lowest level since November, 1977.



Bank intervenes to hold down sterling

By Our Economics Staff

American dollars fell sharply all over the world yesterday as foreign exchange dealers decided that nothing which would help the currency's longer-term prospects had come out of the EEC leaders' summit in Bremen last week or was likely to come from the economic summit in Bonn next week.

Sterling rose strongly against the dollar and other weaker currencies. It rose to a three-month high of 62 on the effective rate index, measured against a basket of currencies.

Most of the 0.4 point gain from Friday's closing level was a reflection of the pound's rise against the dollar. At the time sterling tipped the 1.90 mark against the dollar.

Its close in London was a little below the best level of the day, at \$1.8895. This was a rise of 1.6 cents from Friday's close.

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Harland may sell UK's biggest ship at half cost

Harland & Wolff faces the embarrassing prospect of having to sell the largest ship ever built in Britain at less than half the price it cost to build.

For the past few months the 330,000 tons deadweight oil tanker, Coastal Corpus Christi has been tied up alongside a wharf at the group's Belfast yard.

The vessel is a relic of the swashbuckling activities of the ill-starred Maritime Fruit Carriers group, whose under-bonanza in United Kingdom shipyards once accounted for a third of the industry's order book.

BSC faces bitter fight on Glengarnock plans

By Our Economics Staff

British Steel faces a bitter battle over its plans for the rundown of steelmaking at its plant at Glengarnock, Strathclyde, but the Government will not intervene in the discussions between the unions and the corporation.

Yesterday the BSC published details of its proposals to close the plant, which would result in the loss of 1,000 jobs.

The proposals are part of a wider plan to restructure the steel industry, which would involve the closure of several other plants.

The BSC's proposals are based on the assumption that the steel industry is in a state of decline, and that a reorganisation is necessary to ensure its survival.

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Downing St working dinner

By Our Political Editor

The Prime Minister last night held an unusual working dinner at No 10 Downing Street to discuss the progress of the "mixed economy".

Sir Leslie Murphy, head of the National Enterprise Board, was the guest of honour.

The dinner was held in the presence of several other senior officials and members of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister discussed the progress of the "mixed economy" with the guests, and the progress of the "mixed economy".

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Drop in Brazil coffee shipments

By Our Economics Staff

Rio de Janeiro, July 7.—Brazil shipped a total of 5.3m bags of coffee to the first half of 1978, compared with 6.3m bags in the first half of last year.

Brazil has roughly 600,000 bags of coffee registered for export, but shipments have fallen by 10 per cent since the start of the year.

The drop in shipments is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in demand for Brazilian coffee and a decline in the number of ships available for export.

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Beecham offers £14m for Scott & Bowne

By Richard Allen

Beecham Group is offering £14m in cash to take over Scott & Bowne, the South-based toiletries and cosmetics group, whose best known products are Scott's Emulsion and Feolal, bath products.

Beecham's offer is worth £13.50 a share to Scott & Bowne's 30 shareholders and has already received acceptance in respect of almost 60 per cent of the capital.

The bid follows what virtually amounted to an international auction started by S & B.

Knowing that the Scott family trust was anxious to sell its 34 per cent stake in the group, S & B's board prepared what its merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson, described as a "very substantial" offer.

Shares best in 3 months

By Peter Weinwright

Stock markets had their best day for around three months yesterday, and at the close the FT Ordinary share index was 9.9 higher at 465.5. Last week it sank as low as 452.1, and observers are heartened by the way it has refused to breach 450 mark.

The recovery in fact began at the end of last week with a 3.5 point gain to 453.6 on Friday. That directly reflected the decision of Thomson Electrical to raise its dividend by 10 per cent, which lifted the share price by 1.5 points.

The rally was partly technical—it was the start of a new session, and some were encouraged by the fact that at 10 am the FT index was only 3.2 up.

Gifted too were in form. They expected good news on the money and inflation fronts.

De Beers boost sales by 13pc

By Our Economics Staff

Diamond sales by the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, rose by 13 per cent in June to £1,233m, both 13 per cent more than for the same period last year.

The figures are for cash received, and are not necessarily an indication of the De Beers' profits, but market sources said the figures were "disappointing". On the basis of static volume, compared with 1977, sales value was expected by the sources to be up by about 35 per cent.

This suggests that the volume of diamond sales has fallen from the high levels reached last year.

Key elements of Tokyo Round trade talks may not be agreed in time for summit

By Melvyn Westlake
Geneva, July 10

Both the United States and the European Community seem resigned to the likelihood that the international trade agreement, urgently being negotiated here so that it can be presented to the Bonn economic summit, will fall a good way short of what had been expected until the past few days.

As trade chiefs from the United States, Japan and the EEC met today, it became increasingly apparent that some key elements in the agreement were being held in abeyance.

A firm outline agreement for next Saturday on cutting trade tariffs and curbing unfair trade practices has long been seen as one of the best ways of helping to make the Bonn summit a success. However, there is now increasing talk of continuing the trade negotiations after the summit.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 204.16 + 3.85
The FT index: 465.5 + 9.9

BL chief switches emphasis to bus plants

By Clifford Webb

Mr Michael Edwards, chairman of BL Limited (formerly British Leyland), is switching the emphasis in group strategy towards higher output in the profitable bus and truck factories in order to offset mounting losses in BL's car plants.

Company sources said last night that there was a remarkable improvement in the remaining half of the year could prevent a repetition of last year's setbacks when cars lost £32m.

Last month it took only 17.6 per cent of the home market compared with the 27 per cent

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.70
Austria Sch	29.25
Belgium Fc	60.25
Canada \$	2.16
Denmark Kr	10.95
Finland Mk	8.21
France F	8.67
Germany Dm	4.00
Greece Dr	65.75
Hongkong \$	9.05
Italy Lr	163.00
Japan Yn	400.00
Netherlands Gld	3.23
Norway Kr	10.53
Portugal Esc	86.00
S. Africa Rd	1.00
Spain Ptas	163.25
Sweden Kr	8.50
Switzerland Fr	9.39
US \$	1.94
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.00

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SUTCLIFFE SPEAKMAN & CO. LTD.

Salford Points, from Statement by Chairman, Mr S. W. Livesey

- ★ The group trading profit for the year ended 31st March 1978 was £281,867 compared with £452,431. After interest charges of £115,539 against £112,943 the group profit before taxation was £566,128 compared with £239,488. The return on average capital employed was 24.4%. Earnings per share were 10.5p. The Directors recommend a Final Dividend of 1.0002p per share which is the maximum payable.
- ★ RIGHTS ISSUE. Your Board believes it is now appropriate to make a rights issue of new ordinary shares in order to provide additional capital for the general development of the group and to enlarge its financial base. Details were circulated to shareholders on 21st June.
- ★ ENGINEERING DIVISION. Home market remained at low level but turnover increased by 29% through sales efforts in export markets mainly Middle East countries and North America.
- ★ CARSON DIVISION. The Division again returned good results with turnover increasing by 22% and exports 75% higher than last year.
- ★ PROSPECTS. The coming year should see the company continue to progress.

The Annual General Meeting of Sutcliffe Speakman and Company Limited will be held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, 1st August, 1978, at 12.30 p.m.

£40m ferry order is likely to go to France

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Hoverlloyd, the ferry company operating between Ramsgate and Calais, is expected to place a £40m order in the autumn for two large French hovercraft, with an option for two more later.

Detailed discussions have been taking place with the French Government, which is offering favourable terms to attract more orders for its 400-passenger N500, the only example of which started Channel service last week for the British-French Rail Seapass company.

Hoverlloyd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Swedish Brostrom group, operates four British-built N4 craft but is likely to prefer the French craft to the British "super-4" despite its larger size and capacity, because of the attractive leasing terms offered by the French Government.

Cross-Channel traffic is growing so quickly, however, that as well as buying the French craft, Hoverlloyd expects to enlarge its N4 fleet over the next five years. That might be worth £200m to the British Hovercraft Corporation.

Mr James Hodgson, chairman of Hoverlloyd, said yesterday: "We carried 1,000,000 passengers and 200,000 cars last year and are very close to capacity. It is for this reason that we are going into a programme of adding craft year by year, building up to about 10 in late 1980s."

Negotiations with the French were not completed, but we see the prospect of better financial support from France than the United Kingdom.

State oil signs pact with ICI

British National Oil Corporation yesterday signed a five-year agreement with ICI to supply the company's state participation agreements with all the present commercial oil fields on the United Kingdom continental shelf.

The agreement, bringing the number of state-owned oil fields to five, was signed with ICI to give BNOOC the right to take up 51 per cent of the company's share of production from the Ninian field, at market price.

BNOOC has also entered into a fixed-term supply agreement under which BNOOC will supply selected crude oil to ICI to help meet its needs for the chemical feedstock, naphtha.

Ninian is expected to start production during the final quarter of this year.

Former chief of Italian chemical group arrested on fraud charges

From John Earle
Rome, July 10

Police in Milan today arrested Signor Raffaele Ursini, until the end of June managing director of the ailing chemical group Liguigas, and three of his assistants, in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the construction of a protein-from-petroleum plant near Reggio, Calabria.

The arrests were made under articles of the penal code covering complicity in fraud and in continued commission of an offence.

According to an investigating magistrate, there was a case to answer on the alleged misrepresentation of the financial situation of Liguigas. Ursini, the subsidiary company, was operating the plant for the purposes of obtaining concessional financing, and on the allegation that the funds so obtained were misused to the detriment of the lending institutions, including the Banca di Napoli.

The others arrested were Signor Luigi Bianchi, former director general of Liguigas, and board member of Liguigas, and Signor Bruno Sacerdoti, both members of the internal auditor's board of Liguigas.

Signor Ursini resigned at the annual meeting of Liguigas on June 30, when losses were reported for 1977 of nearly 18,000 million (about £12m). He did so, he said, to remove any personal impediment which might represent to the group's industrial and financial reorganization.

Last week the Bank of Italy promoted a series of meetings between the company and creditor banks in an effort to mount a rescue operation for the heavily indebted group, but without immediate success.

Signor Ursini, aged 52, was controlling shareholder in Liguigas, which he built up from a company distributing bottled gas in the 1950s into Italy's fourth basic chemicals group, after Montedison, ANIC and Societa Italiana Resine (SIR).

Part of the group's troubles derive from the fact that the Reggio Calabria plant, built to produce proteins for animal feedstuffs under a Japanese process, has never come into operation.

After years of hesitation, the Government last month decided that petroleum-based proteins could be fed only to pigs or animals used for hides or furs, and not in livestock feed for meat or dairy purposes.

British Petroleum, in a joint venture with ANIC, was damaged by the same government decision, and earlier this year decided to put its Italian petrochemical plant in Sardinia into liquidation.

Another catalyst of the chemical industry, Signor Ursini, faced the possibility of judicial proceedings when he was served with a formal notice last winter that a magistrate was undertaking an investigation into allegations of irregularities, but later he was cleared as the magistrate decided that there were no charges to answer.

There are three main ways of protecting designs—design registration, patents and design copyright. Of these, design copyright was more effective than design registration.

Design registration, which is a form of the much-plagiarized Hillé International furniture company suggested yesterday.

Hillé's polypropylene chairs designed by Robin Day had been much copied; there were about 50 copies of these chairs around the world at present. In the company's experience one had to fight in this way to maintain design protection.

Design Protection by Dan Johnston. Published by the Design Council, £5.00.

Dividends rising twice as fast as 10 pc limit allowed under government rules

Dividends have been rising roughly twice as fast as the Government possibly allows. This emerges from the latest figures from the Central Statistical Office on the profits and distributions of industrial and commercial companies.

The figures show that ordinary dividend payments rose by just over 20 per cent in 1977, in the year to March 31, last.

In doing so they kept pace with inflation, which on a longer view dividends have consistently failed to do for many years.

At the end of the month the present dividend controls finish, but the CSO data suggests that not too much should be expected in the way of dividend increases.

Companies are at present able to pay much more than increases of 10 per cent a year because of various loopholes.

Welsh redundancies
A.B. Electronic Products Group is to make a number of workers redundant at its plant in Abercynon, Mid Glamorgan, where it employs about 1,800. The precise figure is not being disclosed until discussions with trade union officials have been completed. The group said that operating economies were being made because of the depressed outlook for the consumer electronics industry.

Non-production jobs
About one-third of all employees engaged in manufacturing industry in Britain are

operator, at the rate of 10,000 barrels a day. The well is to be linked up with existing production as soon as possible to bring output up to 30,000 barrels a day.

Rank Optics, an operating division of Rank Precision Industries, announced yesterday that it is producing low-cost optical fibre for short-range communications in applications such as computer processing control and military systems, using plastic-clad silica fibre.

EEC output up
April's index of industrial production in the European Community stood at a preliminary and seasonally adjusted figure of 119.1 (1970 equals 100), an increase of 0.6 per cent from March but down 0.5 per cent from a year ago, according to Eurostat, the EEC statistics office in Brussels.

BMP statement
Britain's building materials producers who so far have made few comments on Labour Party proposals to extend public ownership to the construction industry, are expected to make a statement on the issue tomorrow.

The National Council of Building Material Producers (BMP) describe the proposals as an "irrevocable" after they were published last autumn.

Need for protection of designs emphasized

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Inventors and designers did not always recognize the importance of legal protection for their designs, Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said yesterday. In particular, many small firms depended on new ideas and needed to know how to protect them from plagiarism.

Introducing a new Design Council book on design protection, Mr Lever said the law existed to help small firms to protect their design innovations, but it was complex and needed to be known how to protect them from plagiarism.

Four examples of 1978 Design Council awards—S31E, A. W. Shovel (Surgicraft), Mecanolas and D. H. Prowse & Co.—were all protected internationally, Mr Lever said, and this was a vital factor in ensuring the commercial success of the companies.

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Parcel costs and Post Office profits

From Miss Enid McLeod
Sir, It was gratifying to read in your paper (July 6) of the huge profits that the Post Office, unlike the steel and motor industries, has made in the last two financial years.

Would it not therefore seem reasonable to hope that they might consider decreasing the present heavy cost of parcel, and particularly book, post? I recently had to pay 95p postage to send to France a Penguin book which had cost 90p.

But the only comfort that the public is offered from these profits is that "they are likely to help to stave off any sizeable price rises until at least the end of this financial year". And after that?

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A market unsuited to tenders?

Idea that the Government will shortly experiment with some form of auction or tender system for selling gilt-edged stock is now being widely canvassed. How well founded those rumours are remains to be seen—the only real guidance on the subject at present being the marked reluctance of the Treasury even to discuss the issues involved. What does seem clear, however, is that should the Government go for an experimental tender, the gilt edged market itself is likely to be extremely quick to air the issues involved. The overwhelming view in the market is that were tenders eventually to become the principal method of selling gilts the market would (for better or worse) cease to exist in its present form.

The background to the current investigation into new methods of selling gilts needs little repetition. As a subject, it has cropped up from time to time in the past. What has given it fresh impetus recently has been the Government's obvious anger at the institutions' refusal to buy stock on the Government's terms for much of May—which makes it all the more ironic that the authorities should now appear to be considering a system which, if it is to have any meaning, will in fact have to yield the market a greater say in the pricing of gilts.

The major fear of the market about a tender system is twofold. The first fear is that under a tender system institutions would tend to concentrate their activity on the primary market—i.e. the regular tenders themselves—and have far less use for the secondary market. This, it is argued, would start a vicious circle in which the secondary market would become less liquid and, as it became less liquid, less attractive too. As it became less attractive, more active institutions would then scale down the proportion of gilts they were prepared to hold in their portfolios—the end result being that the Government would finish up paying more to borrow than under the present system.

A second and inter-related fear is that the structure of the secondary market could quickly cease to exist, at least unless the Stock Exchange made moves to allow a radical restructuring of the dealing system. This would be less because the contraction of the secondary market per se would hit the jobbers but rather because the jobbers almost certainly depend for a major part of their profits on "tap" (and related) operations.

Tate & Lyle

Taking on more debt

Whatever reservations the world at large has about Tate & Lyle—and after last month's more than halved interim profits the stock market has grown more cautious—the group's bankers at least seem happy to put their money where Tate's mouth is.

Yesterday the sugar concern announced it had arranged a £30m 10-year loan facility "to replace certain short-term financing arrangements and be used for general corporate purposes". Nothing exceptional to that, of course, with banks looking for customers and the facility arranged before the correct controls were announced.

But for a group whose balance sheet is already showing the strains of the Manbré & Gardin acquisition and the high level of capital spending needed to reorientate the group away from its sugar dependence at a time when retained profits are going to do little to bolster things, the banks involved appear to have taken up Tate's offer to borrow money with alacrity.

Mr loan is also interesting in that Tate did not wait to syndicate around but restricted to the half-dozen banks it has a close relationship with. And more to the point Tate seems to have secured the money at keen rates with a 3 per cent spread over inter-bank rates for the first five years rising to 1 per cent for the last five.

Plainly the banks have been persuaded that despite the next two years of dull profits things will look up in the 1980s as the fruits of recent investment start to come through.

Tate is arguing that the money is needed for purely routine purposes and that with many of the longer-term loans tied to Manbré and shipbuilding, it needs more flexibility elsewhere in the business. But the



Lord Jellicoe, chairman of Tate & Lyle.

fact is that less than £10m of the group's £113m borrowings at the last balance sheet date was short-term and another £30m will push gearing well over 50 per cent which is hardly the direction it should be going in when trading is moving the reverse way.

Boilermakers Implications of the breakdown

The breakdown of the planned merger between the boilermaking interests of Northern Engineering and Clarke Chapman marks the abandonment of the recommendations put forward by the "Think Tank" in late 1976 for the long-term salvation of the British power generating industry. The key to the report was a suggestion for the rationalization of the industry into one turbine generator producer (embracing the interests of GEC and Reynolds Parsons) and one boilermaker (embracing the interests of Clarke Chapman and Babcock & Wilcox).

Such mergers were intended to be the precursors of any government help—whether through the acceleration of orders or insistence upon a more coherent CEBG ordering policy—for the industry in the face of worldwide overcapacity and the prospect of a virtual cessation of new orders at home. The industry, however, has moved precisely in the opposite direction.

GEC and Reynolds failed to agree and they Reynolds merged with Clarke Chapman. The breakdown of the boilermaking merger means that the industry's problems remain essentially what they were, although NEI can now claim "turnkey" capability, and the Drax "B" order is being accelerated despite the lack of rationalization. This order will drive NEI's turbine generator business over for the time being, but the Gateshead boilermaking works is due to run out of work in a year, and even if it clinches one or both of the AGR power station orders now planned, there will be at least a one-year hiatus before the work feeds through.

For neither NEI nor Babcock, however, are power station orders as important as they were. For NEI it accounts for about a quarter of throughput but rather less of profit since boilermaking only broke even last year and will do no more this year. For Babcock, diversification has reduced the share of power engineering to an even smaller proportion of group turnover, and in the meantime it is effectively assured of the Drax "B" order, which should cushion it for the time being at least.

Whitehall is pleased with the ailing footwear industry's response to the tripartite plan to help it. Though it is too soon to assess the results, it is believed that the structure has so far managed to avoid many of the pitfalls of earlier counterparts in other fields. If the plan in end manages to contribute to a reversal in the shoe-makers' fortunes, it could well set the pattern for other government aid schemes.

The kernel of the scheme's acceptability appears to lie in the consultations with industry and unions which have occurred at every stage.

It started, early in 1975, when a Department of Industry initiative resulted in the formation of a study group in co-operation with industry and unions, as well as government representatives.

The move was an unusual one, since normally such inquiries are incorporated into the work of other bodies, such as the National Economic Development Office. But the plight of the shoe trade was causing such alarm that it required separate consideration.

Government, manufacturers and trade union allies were (and are) deeply concerned about the sharp deterioration in the trade balance in footwear and about increasing unemployment in the industry.

When the study group, chaired by Mr George Marriot, started work an estimated third of the industry's 85,000 workers was on short-time. A flood of imports has increased the market share of foreign-made shoes from less than 10 per

Footwear rescue plan gets into its stride

There are already signs of new and constructive attitudes within the industry. While home trade remained depressed last year exports increased. Patricia Tisdall reports

cent by volume in the early 1960s to a total now of 43 per cent.

The manufacturing side of the footwear trade is highly fragmented. The five large producers account for only about a third of total sales and the remainder consists of some 250 firms employing 25 or more workers and a large number with fewer employees.

The industry had not previously been noted for working together and was wary of government involvement. Nevertheless, its plight caused the Department of Industry's invitation to join in a study to see how matters could be improved.

Previous pleas had concentrated almost entirely on state assistance to curb imports. There had also been some, more isolated, complaints from manufacturers about the concentration of the retail side of the footwear business, and particularly about the high level of trade held by the British Shoe Corporation.

When after just over two years' study, the tripartite steering group produced its report in May last year it took a much broader approach. Most

of its 55 recommendations were aimed at improving marketing, design and production to enable British manufacturers to produce a substitute for imports and to improve their export performance.

It recognized that difficulties had been caused by the imbalance in the relative size of footwear manufacturers and distributors and recommended closer co-operation to replace the guarded relationships then in force between the two sides. A great deal has been done in the last year towards implementing the group's recommendations. One of the first steps, announced on the day the report was published, was the formation of a separate Nedo sector working party to continue the study group's work and monitor progress as the scheme progressed.

Unlike the Nedo working parties for other industry sectors, that for the footwear trade contains not only manufacturers, government and union representatives, but retailers as well.

Its unusual composition, and some behind-the-scenes debate about the individual recruits, means that the working party, under the chairmanship of Mr Speaker Crookenden of K

Shoes, did not in fact get under way until January, but the participation of the retailers was seen as a breakthrough in fostering better intersectoral relations within the industry in line with the study group's recommendations.

A more specific initiative towards closer manufacturer-retailer collaboration was taken by shoe retailers themselves in May. A group of the biggest retailers working through the Footwear Distributors' Federation have pledged their support in identifying imports and helping manufacturers to produce suitable substitutes.

One of the problems of the domestic shoe-makers is the need to react quickly to fashion changes.

But by far the biggest boost, psychologically as well as in tangible terms, has been financial aid with an initial allocation of £4.5m announced by Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, in April.

The scheme, under which grants and loans can be obtained for selective projects aimed at improving productivity and efficiency, is one of 14 which have been allocated by the government under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 to different industry sectors.

Arthur Reed

Concorde factories see the clouds lifting

The last of the line of British-assembled Concorde is due to be wheeled out of its hangar at Bristol this autumn. Concorde design and development, fabrication work and final assembly have kept Filton active for well over a decade, but no further orders for the sleek, 1,350 mph machines are to sight and the final two are being parked as "white tails"—aircraft awaiting buyers.

The seventh British-assembled production Concorde has already been finished and has completed its test flying. The eighth and last will reach a similar state in a few weeks. It was at one time feared that the departure of the last Concorde would leave an employment vacuum in the factories, but that fear has for the time being proved unfounded.

British Aerospace, the nationalized aerospace manufacturer, which took over the Filton works from the British Aircraft Corporation in April last year, already has contracts which will keep the workshops busy. The hope is that the expected collaborative deal with the Americans or European aircraft industries on a family of new airliners will result in adequate work in the longer term.

Meanwhile, as long as the Concorde is in service with British Airways and Air France (which have nine between them) there will be "product support" work, though this will occupy the talents of only a small proportion of the 4,500 British Aerospace aircraft group workers at Filton.

The machine shop is, however, fully occupied with a variety of jobs, including Concorde spares, parts for the Jaguar Anglo-French fighter, parts for the Tornados British-West German fighter-bomber, and parts for the F16 American fighter which is to be jointly made by a Nato consortium in Europe.

Contracts for the F16 work were gained by teams from Filton going out and "selling" the factory's facilities and the abilities of its workforce. A similar sales effort had to be made before a contract was won from the United States Air Force for work on their fleet of F-111 bombers which are slated for British work which formerly meant flying these advanced, swing-wing aircraft back to their base in California.

The USAF carried out an exhaustive examination of Filton's capabilities before the £1m contract was awarded. The initial work is going well, and the hope is that the USAF will come back with bigger contracts on the F-111 once they are entirely satisfied with the standard of the job and the dedication of the workers.

Most of the floor space of the enormous hangar at Filton which was built shortly after the last war to take the Bristol Brabazon airliner, in which the Concorde was assembled, is now occupied by a fleet of nine VC10 airliners, rear-engine, long-haul airliners, which were originally built and flown from Filton's sister factory at Weybridge, Surrey.

These have recently been bought from various airlines around the world with which they had finished their flying career and sent to Bristol for conversion into tankers which the Royal Air Force will use to refuel the air defence force of Britain, so extending their patrol time.

At the moment, the VC10s are being kept at Filton on a care and maintenance basis, but the king-size cigarette war among the tobacco manufacturers is regarded as one of the factors to last year's drop of 17 per cent in sales of miniature cigars—part of an overall decline in the cigar market.

Smokers on the whole apparently switched back last year to larger whiffs, the size of cigar to which the Benson and Hedges Hamlet brand is market leader.

The cigar makers, who are locked in a battle of their own, now hope that the trade will at worst remain static this year and at best turn up between 3 and 4 per cent.

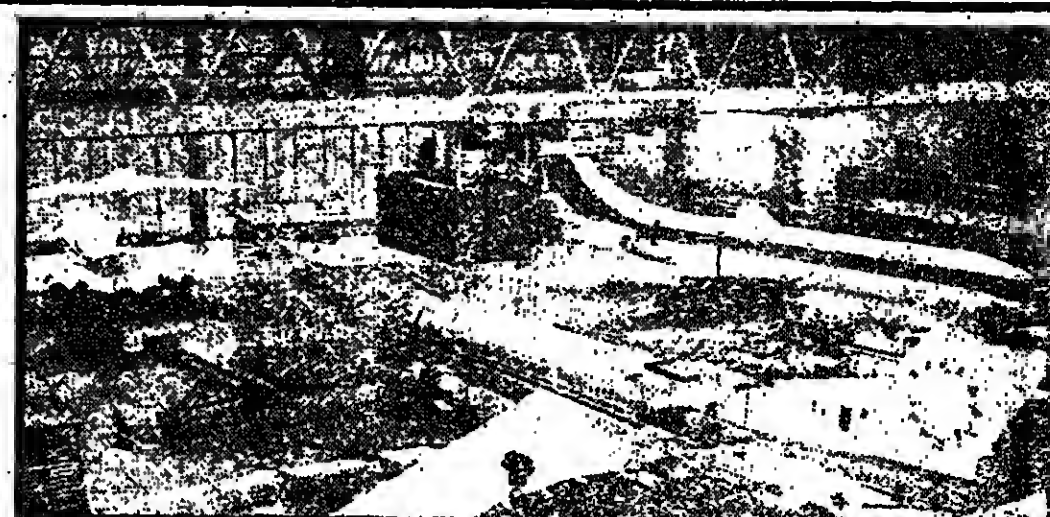
Their hopes are based on the strong correlation between cigar sales and the amount of net disposable income in circulation. This makes it possible that some smokers of miniature cigars—in which the Imperial Group's Tom Thumb brand is market leader—will have been subsequently trading up to larger whiffs, far the most buoyant cigar sector.

The only cigar sector which has shown little or no sales variation according to availability of net disposable income is that of the fine or hand-made cigars, typically the Havanas, Jamaicans and Nicaraguans.

These represent only about 1 per cent of the cigar market and, like champagne, they tend to sell to their select clientele however prices rise.

But the improved prospects for the main cigar trade after nearly three years of decline has signalled in intensification of the struggle between the two British cigar giants. These are Imperial group, with its Willis and John Player brands, accounting for about 55 per cent of British production, and Gallaher (with Benson and Hedges) and Alan King (with leading brands) accounting for the rest.

Although cigars make up only 3 per cent of the total tobacco market by weight, in value terms the proportion is 5 per cent. But about 14 per cent of advertising expenditure, too, is devoted to cigars, with the latest returns of Media Expenditure Analysis Limited (MEAL) putting billings in the year to the end of last March at £2.5m. A factor is possibly



VC10 aircraft at Filton in the first stages of conversion into air tankers for the RAF.

a contract will be let shortly to British Aerospace which should produce two or three years of work for a wide range of workers, including design teams.

Another big task for the future at Filton, although with slightly less certainty than that on the VC10s, concerns the BS 146 airliner which British Aerospace is to build as their first new type since they took over BAC, Hawker Siddeley Aviation and Scottish Aviation.

The 146 is a Hawker Siddeley design and a great deal of preliminary work has been completed under a series of small contracts at HSA's works at Hatfield, Hertfordshire. One of the advantages of the nationalization of the aircraft industry is proving to be that work can be moved about across the old company boundaries into factories which need it, and jobs for the 146 have already appeared at Filton.

Filton will build the centre fuselage section and wing box

for the 146, a 70-100-seater airliner with a high wing, powered by four jet engines.

Both workers and management at Bristol are watching closely the involved and protracted mating game which is going on at political level over collaboration on the new generation of airliners. Whichever country Britain eventually gives to with, Filton anticipates receiving a good share of the design and production work.

Trade unions at the Rolls-Royce works on the other side of the Filton airfield, where the last Olympus engine for Concorde was completed last year, have already made known their views on the course that the new airliner negotiations should take.

They have concluded that the deal, when it comes, should be with the United States rather than with Europe, as America would give better outlets for the RB211 engine, on which much of the future prospects for Rolls hang.

At present the Rolls-Royce

However, not all have been met with such approval from industry as the footwear scheme. In what was described as a "very encouraging response" by Mr Alan Williams last month, applications from footwear manufacturers have been coming in at a steady rate in large numbers.

At the last count there were 46 formal applications and a further 75 inquiries. Included among these were seven applications for consultancy help, while the remainder dealt with investment in machinery and rationalization and restructuring.

Consultancy assistance, available to smaller companies employing not more than 500 people, is seen as potentially one of the most important components of the scheme. The Government is offering a grant of 50 per cent of the fees paid to consultants for advice on various aspects of a company's work, including management, finance and production.

Assignments aimed at improving design performance are being particularly encouraged, according to the notes of guidance for the scheme.

Approval of the first batch of applications for aid is expected to be announced within the next few days.

There will then be a delay, possibly of as much as five years, before the first results of implementation can be seen. However, there are already signs of more constructive attitudes within the industry. While home trade remained depressed, the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation points to an increase in exports last year to 12.5 per cent of the volume produced as a tangible evidence of regeneration.

Business Diary: Historian at work • Standard bearer

People in industry and commerce who spend one day a week at college on day-release are common enough, but what about Dr Leslie Hannah, who spends four days a week as a lecturer in history at Cambridge University and one with the Electricity Council?

Hannah, 41, is to be director of London University's new Business History Unit, whose establishment I reported recently.

He churns out books on big business at a rate that would warm the heart of big business war study specialists (if they have hearts, that is), and he has an office at the council's Millbank headquarters as part of the deal under which he was commissioned to write a study of relations between the electricity industry and government since nationalization.

The manuscript of that one will be with Macmillan this year but as the book itself won't appear until 1979 it seems that Hannah will not be able to pull off a publishing hat-trick.

Last year he and John Kay brought out their *Concentration in Modern Industry* (Macmillan), and the year before that saw Hannah's *The Rise of the Corporate State* (Methuen).

Hannah, who is 31 and a fellow of Emmanuel College, told me yesterday that when he takes over at the unit in August it won't be to do research for research's sake, but to throw light on modern conditions.

One inquiry, he said, might be into the origins of people promoted into top management and how these have changed over the past 30 years.

The unit, a joint venture between the London School of Economics and Imperial College, is being funded by business through an appeal sponsored by Sir Alastair Pilkington, chairman of Pilkington Brothers.

□ The Institute of Chartered Accountants is, I see, turning towards youth and the smaller firm in filling the sensitive post of chairman of the auditing practices committee.

It has plumped for David Young, a 40-year-old partner in Spicer and Pegler, a firm that is no minnow but is certainly not in the "big eight" of accountancy.

Young comes in at a particularly lively time for the committee and indeed for the ICA, for institute members are now chewing over the first lot of the committee's proposed standards and guidelines, announced a month ago.

Reaction, particularly from some of the smaller firms, is

likely to be peppery. There may be complaints that the ICA policy-making is in the grip of the boys from the big eight who just don't understand the problems of the smaller firms.

Young told me last night that there was some advantage in hearing as chairman of the auditing practices committee someone from outside the big eight.

The slightly smaller firms have a spread of clients further down into the entrepreneurial field, he said. "It's probably easier for us to understand the problems of auditing smaller companies, which is one of the major hurdles to our programme of developing auditing standards."

He takes over from Richard Wilkes, a partner in one of the big eight, Price Waterhouse. Wilkes is moving on, having succeeded David Richards of Deloitte as vice president on



The workers will welcome Mr Heath as Mrs Thatcher's partner. They'll assume there's a chance of a three-day week again.

the latter's elevation to ICA deputy president.

It appears that a consumer watchdog has been put to sleep. The Consumer Protection Advisory Committee, established under part II of the Fair Trading Act 1973, has not met for more than a year and no action has been taken upon the last of its few reports.

When the CPAC was established during Edward Heath's premiership, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the then Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, promised that it would be a "reasonably swift and sensitive" vector of proposals for new legislation from the Direct-General of Fair Trading.

In the event the committee, which brings together trading standards officers, people from retailing and industry,

and consumerists, proved more sensitive than swift.

When the present director-general, Gordon Borrie, last referred anything to it, for example, the committee refused to join him in outright condemnation of prices quoted exclusive of VAT.

The committee said it should be sufficient to show the price and the amount of VAT to be added, and that in giving estimates it should be sufficient to quote the rates of VAT that might be applicable.

Nothing has been heard from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection since that report was presented in May last year, and Borrie's subsequent recommendations for new legislation—to outlaw bargain offers—have been made direct to the secretary of state, by-passing the CPAC.

Limerick writers flourish in Australia according to the *Svedes*. The editors of Sweden Now, an English language magazine published by the Swedish Employers' Confederation and Limerick Federation, organized a limerick competition to celebrate their tenth anniversary. The top entries judged best included four from Australia. A sample of unpolished poetry suited to Scandinavian taste: "Sweden Now shows— Scandimania, its people, their ails and— behaviour. Photographically excellent, and literally brilliant. It is surely the reader's savior."

Ross Davies

Cigar makers go into battle

that some cigar types "echo" cigarette brands for which television advertising is banned.

Imperial's billings—MEAL figures being only an indicator since they take no account of volume discounts—accounted for some 47 per cent of this expenditure.

This figure excludes the group's spending on imported brands. Imperial, for instance, distributes the largest-selling, imported cigars, the Henri Winterman range from Holland, imports account for about 19 per cent of the total market, down from 22 per cent in the middle of last year in the estimation of a recent survey of

declined in market share—according to the de Zoete & Bevan analysis—from 18 per cent in mid-1977 to just under 16 per cent early this year. Large whiffs rose from 70 per cent of the market to almost 75 per cent in the same period.

Panatellas—in which Willis's brand leader, Panatella, is brand leader, followed by the Benson and Hedges brand—lost 12 per cent of market share to less than 10 per cent.

The main struggle is for the large whiff, which is the one which Hamlet, Britain's largest selling cigar, has 45 per cent of this, with a 12 per cent increase in its sales likely this year.

But there was increasing anxiety at Gallaher until recently over the performance of its Manikin brand. Its sector share as number two to Hamlet had slid to 11 per cent, with Willis Embassy slim panatella, a stable sales performer, apparently poised to move out in front.

The Manikin television advertising campaign was completely revamped and Manikin's price cut to 2p five below the Hamlet level.

A further threat was Imperial's introduction of John Player Mild at 6p for five below the Manikin price.

Willis was genuinely concerned that this might have been a good marketing move on Imperial's part but Hamlet and Manikin quietly shrugged it off. Mr Anderson said.

But a further battleground is emerging. Both makers last year identified what they thought was a gap in the market between the large whiffs and the panatellas that had been hit mainly by the effects of recession.

Willis launched its Castles brand nationally at about 85p for five—panatella being 80p for five—and Gallaher hezzan fast marketing in Scotland its Falcstic brand.

Gallaher's view is that it is still to be proved that there is a volume market for this "between-size" cigar.

Falcstic, although claimed by Gallaher to be performing well against Castles in Scotland, will in consequence star in test market for another six months.

Derek Harris

the industry by analysts de Zoete & Bevan.

The decline in imported cigars appears to be almost wholly due to price problems caused by currency changes.

Gallaher accounts for another 42 per cent of the advertising expenditure in the year to last March, according to the MEAL figures.

It seems likely that, as the cigar trade intensifies, spending will rise in real terms, although Mr Nigel Anderson, general manager of the Gallaher cigar division, is cautious about this approach to clear marketing. "It is not like selling cigarettes—it is altogether a longer term business with a hard ceiling to change over one to three years," he says.

The backlist to the battle is that miniature cigars have

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Best market session since Ascot Day

The sun came out, a new account began, and enough people said it was time for a technical rally for the FT index to jump 9.9 to 465.5, its highest since Ascot Day three weeks ago, and the biggest rise in around three months. Small investors and some institutions became bold enough to buy, and gains were widespread throughout the list amid a complete absence of selling.

There were many reasons put forward for this change in sentiment. Some said the good work last week with unexpectedly good profits and a 72 per cent dividend leap and buyers yesterday decided that the end of dividend control in its present form July 31 was bullish.

Carpenter International has risen quietly but strongly in the past week and yesterday hardened a further 1p to 56p. Several brokers have been buying on the expectation that CI will nearly if not quite break even point this year to December. Last year, it made profits of only £1.3m, but excluding Australia the profits would have been £4.6m.

Notice was taken of a National Opinion Poll indicating that the Tories have re-established a 4 per cent lead over Labour and the pound was firm amid talk of a huge oil find by BP off the Shetlands. At all events, the FT index

seems to bounce back once it nears 450.

Gilt-edged did nothing to keep shares down. They too watched the firmness of the pound and drew encouragement from the apparent removal of the threat of higher interest rates across the Atlantic.

There is an impression that the indulgence of the Government's tap smacks has subsidised, and that yields recognising inflation are too good to miss. The climate in terms of money supply and slower inflation was thought to be propitious.

Today's banking figures may indicate an actual drop in

money supply, and Friday's retail prices index will probably show a further fall in inflation from those of mid-May, no little more than 7 per cent a year. Some even hope that Friday will bring a good set of trade figures, just for a change.

The mood was enough for gilts to rise by up to a point at the long-end. The Exchequer 12 per cent tap 2013/17 itself put on 2 to 44.

Blue chips led the way with Thorne, still on its dividend and profits, putting on 12p to 350p. ICI mirrored the mood with a gain of 8p to 370p and Fisons, whose agricultural products may be through the worst, advancing

5p to 360p. Unilever, with dividends stored against the day when they can be distributed, rose 10p to 526p and Beecham, with an acquisition was good for a 10p climb to 655p. Sotheby's, still on the Von Hirsch collection, gained 3p to 295p.

Among engineering shares, the conviction that the yield alone makes it right to buy, had Tobe Investments up 12p to 355p. Hawker Siddeley, partly on aircraft compensation hopes had a 7p rise to 210p while Dowty were run up 5p to 217p. But Babcock & Wilcox and Northern Engineering slipped.

Stores were warmed by the cheer, with GUS "A" in the lead with a 14p rise to 280p.

Raybeck, which has figures seen had a 3p gain to 82p while Marks & Spencer rose 4p to 147p and ODS were 2p to the good at 92p.

Bad news from Westland, including further heavy provisions against the Lynx helicopter contract with the Ministry of Defence, had the shares 19p down to 33p in mid-June. They have consoled to 35p, up 1p yesterday, on gossip that the Lynx position is now much better and that institutions which have set up a committee, will be meeting with Westland around the end of the week.

In banks and insurances Hambros stood out with a 15p rise to 170p on relief that the recent news about shipping loan provisions was not even worse. Banks were firm ahead of the interim dividend season. Lloyds were good for a 7p gain to 262p. Midland went up 10p to 345p. Properties also had their share of rises.

Among oils BP was the big talking point but opinions differed about the significance of the reported find. However, the shares were 16p up at 844p at the close.

Equity turnover on July 7 was £712m (15,352) bargains. Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph were ICI, Shell, BP, Thorne, Guthrie, Disuliers, Eum Ferries, GAF, GEC, GUS "A", and BAT Inds.

May and Hassell's results slump

By Michael Prest

There was a sharp drop in pre-tax profits at May & Hassell, the Bristol-based timber merchants, to £321,000 in the year to the end of March. Despite the company's forecast that the latest results would exceed last year's £139m, losses came to £741,000, though most are non-recurring, and write-downs of £235,000 were also made. But the company says that without these exceptional factors and in the face of a weak market for softwoods, pre-tax profits would have been about £15m.

The biggest single loss was £298,000 on Hallam Group of Nottingham, a cabinet-maker in which May & Hassell had 50 per cent. The proceeds of £146,000 from the disposal of the company last year were offset against May & Hassell's share of the total £727,000 loss incurred by Hallam.

Other losses included £167,000 from the Belgian subsidiary, Ancienne Maisson Henri Devereux & Fils, and £123,000 from South Africa.

United Kingdom softwood consumption last year was the lowest for 22 years. A small revival is expected by May & Hassell, but the company points out that currency fluctuations make overseas purchases "a gamble". With underlying assets of about 217p a share, the market put the shares up 4p to 62p.

Streeters' Saudi Arabian troubles

By Ray Maughan

Shareholders attending the Streeters of Godalming annual meeting at the Cafe Royal today should seek further explanation of the group's troubles in the Middle East.

In a prepared statement yesterday the chairman, Mr Edward Streeter, disclosed that since the accounts for 1977 were published on June 15 last, "there has been a marked deterioration in the prospects of the 40 per cent owned associated company, Streeters Saudi Arabia (SSA)".

The board was nevertheless confident that "in spite of the unsatisfactory situation" relating to this investment, it is justified in proceeding with the previously recommended 0.86p per share final dividend. Adjusting for a one-for-two scrip, the net total dividend is therefore still lifted by the maximum to 1.6933p.

Streeters announced, however, that the Saudi minister responsible has agreed with the

main contractor to reduce the scope of the new contract in Riyadh and consequently the share of work allocated to SSA. In 1978 and 1979 is expected to be reduced from £30m to between £3m and £5m. In any event, directors will make no further investment in Saudi Arabia.

It was also revealed that problems over work permits are making it increasingly difficult effectively to supervise and maintain production in Saudi Arabia. In particular, "the Saudi response to the engineering efforts to limit losses on the unremunerative Jeddah contracts".

The Saudi Arabian majority shareholders are being consulted as to the best means of resolving the situation. Streeters' commitments in that country might be reduced and this may involve a "drastic re-appraisal of the value of Streeters investment there both in SSA and in plant leased to SSA".

Crown Hse up 26 pc to £3.3m pre-tax

By Michael Clark

In spite of being affected by two costly strikes involving outside sources, pre-tax profits of Crown House increased by 26 per cent to £3.3m in the year to March 31.

This means that the group has more than doubled its profits in the last three years. The group warns, however, that order generally in both engineering and glassware are becoming more difficult to obtain particularly from the home market. Export markets for glassware are also proving more competitive. But a further advance in profit is expected this year, given no serious adverse conditions.

Turnover of the group last year increased from £76.9m to £93.5m.

Earnings a share are 6.7p compared with 5.3p while a final dividend of 4.6p lifts the total dividend to 5.6p gross.

A breakdown of the profits shows the electrical and mechanical services increasing its contribution from £1.6m to £1.8m.

W.G. Frith quote is suspended as talks start

By Our Financial Staff

The listing of W. G. Frith & Co., a small manufacturer of aluminium and tin foils, was suspended yesterday at the request of the chairman, Mr S. H. May, pending the outcome of

and other directors and their associates which would lead to a bid for the company.

Frith, which has a factory in Southend-on-Sea, is a close company about 38 per cent of the stock of which is controlled by members of the Frith family, either beneficially or as trustees. Another 11.5 per cent is held by nominees.

Mr May has less than one per cent of the equity, and was brought in as chairman by the three members of the family, who are the executive directors. It is understood that the family which is being advised by Cloy Brothers, has expressed interest in acquiring Mr May's holding.

He is taking advice from the James Finlay Corporation, the merchant bank arm of James Finlay & Co. No offer has yet been made.

Knott Mill listing is restored; takeover off

The Stock Exchange listing of Knott Mill was restored yesterday when it was announced that discussions on a possible takeover had been dropped.

That and the simultaneous news that Knott Mill had compounded its first-half loss over the full year to the end of February led to the newly restored share price dropping.

On sales slightly up at £4.49m from £4.26m, the company made a full-year loss of £182,006, against a profit of £10,651 in the previous year.

The company also announced that a conditional agreement has been reached for the sale of three leasehold carpet outlets for £260,000 in cash. The three outlets, which have a net book value of £60,000, started trading towards the end of last year or earlier this year and have not made a material contribution to the group, the company said.

£748,000, including associated profits up from £4,000 to £30,000.

Turnover rose from £7.16m to £8.28m. With earnings per share up from 8.03p to 9.27p, the dividend, net, is being raised from 4.55p to 4.39p. Unilever makes demountable partitioning systems; its shares are traded on the over-the-counter market made by M. J. H. Nightingale.

Mr M. H. F. Newman, the chairman, explains that there was a "strong rise" in contract completions in the second half. The indications are that in spite of the continuing low level of activity in the building industry.

recovery raised pre-tax profit of Celtic Haven from £101,068 to a record £109,357 in the year to March 31, 1978. Turnover of the company—arable farmers, suppliers of ancillary services to the Celtic Sea off-shore oil industry—and constructors of piers and harbours expanded from £5.85m to £7.35m. But tax rose from £36,100 to £54,297, leaving earnings per share down from 1.3p to 1.1p. The gross dividend is stepped up from 0.44p to 0.48p—the maximum allowed.

Options

Interest on the traded options picked up yesterday. Last Friday only 279 contracts were dealt in but yesterday the total was 343. ICI not surprisingly led the list with 87 contracts arranged and GEC was close behind with 63. Consolidated Gold Fields saw 38 deals done and Courtauld the figure was 45. Grant Metropolitan Hotels was popular with 105 options arranged. But there was little doing in Land Securities, with 20 deals, or in Marks & Spencer, where only two contracts were fixed. No less than 41 contracts were arranged in Commercial Union. An Friday no business was done at all in this stock.

Engineering side dips at Carclo

In spite of a downturn on the engineering side, the West Yorkshire-based Carclo Engineering Group managed to push its pre-tax profits from £1.85m to £2.55m to a record £977,000 in the year to March 31. Total sales rose from £7.84m to £8m.

A breakdown shows that profits from the card clothing division climbed from £378,000 to £471,000, while the engineering section's figures slipped from £571,000 to £506,000. Engineering's turnover was up from £5,066m to £5.78m and card clothing's from £2.78m to £2.22m.

With fully taxed earnings per share edging forward from 11.2p to 12.3p, the total gross dividend is being lifted from 4.12p to 4.33p. The board reports that orders are higher than at this time last year and Carclo is ready to take advantage of any upturn in world trade.

Upswing in last half at Unilock

Despite the warning in the interim report that the year's figures would be lower, Unilock Holdings slightly raised its results in the 12 months to April 2. Pre-tax profits reached a best-ever £808,000, compared with

Celtic Haven recovers to record

The expected second-half recovery raised pre-tax profit of Celtic Haven from £101,068 to a record £109,357 in the year to March 31, 1978. Turnover of the company—arable farmers, suppliers of ancillary services to the Celtic Sea off-shore oil industry—and constructors of piers and harbours expanded from £5.85m to £7.35m. But tax rose from £36,100 to £54,297, leaving earnings per share down from 1.3p to 1.1p. The gross dividend is stepped up from 0.44p to 0.48p—the maximum allowed.

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Chairmen

Mr L. H. Goldrei: I would prefer to take a cautious view rather than hold out positive prospects for a further material improvement in profit. Nevertheless, the company is working strenuously towards achieving another set of satisfactory results.

Mr M. C. Abbott: Current trading is at a satisfactory level, again, the board and the group's operation management are biding their time for a further improvement in overall profitability in the present financial year.

Progress in eliminating initial teething troubles on the new press has not been as fast as the company would have wished. Progress continues in obtaining additional work.

Within the last few days a valuable contract has been signed for a monthly publication of a substantial print order, and the group has acquired a monthly London-based equipment trade magazine and an export directory. In addition, it has bought an

Anglo-Indonesian Corp

Mr M. D. Nightingale: With the fall in rice prices it is difficult to predict with any accuracy how the price will turn out for the current year, but it is encouraging that, so far, actual crop yields are

Metal Box Limited Reports and Accounts 1978



- New 2-piece can plant to open at Braunstone, Leics by the beginning of 1979.
- Capital investment at Venesta International Packaging to increase productivity.
- Encouraging year from Security and General Printing Division.
- Equipment interests consolidated in Metal Box Engineering: a strong base.

- The interchange of technical and market knowledge between the Stelrad and Ideal businesses has yielded higher sales and profits.
- Higher sales and profits from Metal Box Singapore.
- Trading conditions in India more favourable—sales and profits up.
- Lamicon plastic bottles develop satisfactorily.

Metal Box moves forward worldwide in a difficult year.

Extracts from the Statement of Sir Alex Page Chairman, Metal Box Limited, taken from the Company's Annual Reports and Accounts 1978:

Review of the Year

While overseas the past year, on the whole, was satisfactory, at home it has been a difficult one, not only because of the unfavourable weather conditions for food and beverage cans, but also because of certain industrial unrest and these difficulties have resulted in lower profits. The technology of can making is undergoing a significant change and we have made a substantial investment in two-piece can manufacture, which has not yet earned any return. This technological change has involved both changes in the nature of the work of employees in some of our factories and in the degree of skills required. These changes have taken place against the background of the three Phases of the Government's wages policy, one result of which has been the drastic reduction of differentials between rates for skilled and those for unskilled work. The result has been substantial industrial unrest in some factories with the consequence that our new equipment has not been properly utilised. Once again, despite this industrial unrest, which mainly has been confined to one or two particular areas, the vast majority of the Company's employees have demonstrated their loyalty to the Company and conscientious devotion to their work. I should like to thank them for their efforts in what, I know, have been difficult circumstances.

Results

Sales at home were 18% higher than last year and overseas the increase was 7%; combined sales were 14% higher. Including associated companies, the combined profit of £55.8 million was 4% less than for last year.

Exports

Exports last year amounted to £59.3 million, an increase of £18.8 million (36%) compared with the previous year.

Continental Group Agreement

One of the most significant steps has been the renegotiation of our Technical Agreement with The Continental Group Inc. of the US. We are thus free to pursue a separate course for the development and exploitation of can making and crown cap making technologies. I wish to express

	%	1978 £000	1977 £000
Sales			
Home	+18.1	532,897	451,364
Overseas	+6.9	274,562	266,809
	+14.0	807,459	708,173
Profit before taxation			
Home	-9.0	34,341	37,732
Overseas	+2.5	20,436	19,935
Associated Companies	+138.7	1,000	419
	-4.0	55,777	58,086
Taxation	-41.0	10,777	18,263
Profit after taxation	-13.0	45,000	39,823
Interest of minority shareholders	-54.5	6,232	4,034
Profit before extraordinary items			
Extraordinary items	+8.3	38,788	35,789
		(4,172)	4,292
Interest of Metal Box Limited	-13.7	34,596	40,081
Dividends			
On preference stocks		99	99
Interim ordinary dividend of 8-6p		4,002	3,487
Final ordinary dividend of 5-2866p—proposed	+12.4	9,928	8,032
Profit retained in the business			
Metal Box Limited		24,421	22,215
Subsidiaries		494	6,511
Associated Companies		653	323
Earnings per £1 ordinary stock unit	-20.2	25,568	32,048

our gratitude to Continental for all the help which Metal Box has received from them over nearly half a century.

Metal Box—Standun Inc.

Our first major project following the termination of the Continental Can agreement has been the formation jointly with Standun Inc. of Compton, Los Angeles, of a company to manufacture two-piece beverage cans at a factory to be built in the Los Angeles area. The new corporation has signed a contract to supply Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group with beverage cans.

Environment

It is gratifying to report that the Industry Committee for Packaging and the Environment (INCPEN) has with Government backing achieved its objective of a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Packaging Industry and the Packaging Council with responsibility for monitoring it. With our full support INCPEN has also joined with sister organisations in other EEC countries who share our concern about the prejudice being shown against packaging by the Environment and Consumer Protection Service of the EEC.

Overseas

The Overseas Company, despite political problems in a number of territories, has had a reasonably good year; in particular, the glass plant in Nigeria is well established and is making good profits.

Outlook

The prospects for the economy do not appear to favour any substantial general increase in sales this year. There are opportunities for increasing efficiency and profits, if we can overcome the industrial relations problems which affected us last year. I believe that there are signs that this is happening but until we can give incentives for greater effort, skill and responsibility, which is difficult under the pay policy, problems are bound to arise.



Metal Box
A good business to be in

To: The Secretariat, Metal Box Limited, Queens House, Foxbury Road, Reading, RG1 3JH.

Please send me a copy of the Reports and Accounts 1978.

Name

Address

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MARKET REPORTS

Foreign Exchange

It was another bad day for the dollar as foreign exchanges yesterday. The pound had its best day for several months with the Bank of England believed to have creamed off more than \$100m for the first time in 18 months.

Sterling finished 1.60 cents higher at \$1.8895, having touched \$1.8985 at one stage. The effective exchange rate finally scored a gain of 0.01 to 2.0, the highest closing level since April 13.

Against the dollar German marks rose from 2.0570 to 2.0445, Swiss francs gained from 1.4830 to 1.4930, and French francs advanced from 4.4570 to 4.4310. The yen strengthened from 202.30 to 201.40.

Gold gained \$2.75 an ounce to close in London at \$186.87½.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rate: day's range	Market rate: July 10
New York	\$1 8900-8900
London	\$2 1500-8900
Amsterdam	\$1 1500-1315
Brussels	\$1 1500-1315
Copenhagen	\$1 1500-1315
Frankfurt	\$1 1500-1315
Geneva	\$1 1500-1315
Madrid	\$1 1500-1315
Milan	\$1 1500-1315
Paris	\$1 1500-1315
Rome	\$1 1500-1315
Stockholm	\$1 1500-1315
Tokyo	\$1 1500-1315
Zurich	\$1 1500-1315

Source: Reuters. All rates are compared to December 31, 1971. New York \$1.00 = 66.25¢.

Forward Level

	1 month	3 months
New York	46-30 1/2 prem	112-1 1/2 prem
Montreal	50-40 prem	125-1 1/2 prem
Amsterdam	46-30 prem	112-1 1/2 prem
Brussels	50-20 prem	7-2 1/2 prem
Frankfurt	25-1/2 pure disc	7-1/2 pure disc
London	25-1/2 pure disc	7-1/2 pure disc
Paris	35-135-1/2 prem	110-1/2 pure disc
Geneva	40-20 pure disc	3-1/2 disc
Basel	40-20 pure disc	15-3/4 pure disc
Stockholm	1-1 prem pure disc	3-2 1/2 prem
Oslo	1-1 prem pure disc	3-2 1/2 prem
London	15-0 pure prem	45-2 1/2 pure prem
Zurich	7-2 prem	7-2 1/2 pure prem
Amsterdam		

dollar rate against 13 dollars

Euro-\$ Deposit

Gold

Gold

Foreigners (news): non-resident, 4513-4524
resident, 4525-4536

Bank Base Rates

A&N Bank	10%
Barclays Bank	10%
B.C.C.I. Bank	10%
Consolidated Crdts.	10%
C. Hoare & Co ..	±10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
London Mercantile	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster	10%
Rossminster Ltd ..	10%
TSB	10%
Williams and Glyn's	10%

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1977 High	78 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div'd	Yld %	P/E
64	29	Airsprung Ord	64	—	5.4	8.4	8.4
203	106	Airsprung 181/2 CUL5	203	—	18.5	9.1	—
46	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	42	—	3.3	7.8	17.9
162	105	Bardon Hill	162	—	12.0	7.4	9.8
162	105	Deborah	162	—	5.1	4.4	9.4
230	108	Deborah 171/2 CUL5	230	—	17.5	7.6	—
147	120	Frederick Parker	129	—	12.4	9.6	5.1
153	135	George Blair	149	—	15.0	10.0	5.9
58	36	Jackson Group	50	—	5.0	10.0	5.8
114	55	James Burrough	106	—	6.5	6.1	9.8
340	188	Robert Jenkins	318	—	26.7	8.3	—
24	9	Twinklowl Ord	19	—	1.7	5.3	17.0
82	54	Twinklowl 121/2 ULS	78	—	12.0	15.3	—
81	54	Unilock Holdings	80	—	7.4	9.2	8.6
105	67	Walter Alexander	105	—	6.4	6.1	7.7

Wall Street

New York, July 10.—The New York stock market gained moderately today, but relatively slow turnover indicated a lack of conviction, dealers said.

Silver closes 5 cents up

WALTER: New York, July 16. — Commodity futures traded on the floor of the close on speculative action covering oil to finish 4.20 to 5.00 cents up on the day. Prior to the late firming, prices had seen a series of sharp declines, and commission houses liquidation prompted by statements that Longwell will pass an Energy Bill. July 33 1/2c, 34 1/2c, 35 1/2c, 36 1/2c, 37 1/2c, 38 1/2c, 39 1/2c, 40 1/2c, 41 1/2c, 42 1/2c, 43 1/2c, 44 1/2c, 45 1/2c, 46 1/2c, 47 1/2c, 48 1/2c, 49 1/2c, 50 1/2c, 51 1/2c, 52 1/2c, 53 1/2c, 54 1/2c, 55 1/2c, 56 1/2c, 57 1/2c, 58 1/2c, 59 1/2c, 60 1/2c, 61 1/2c, 62 1/2c, 63 1/2c, 64 1/2c, 65 1/2c, 66 1/2c, 67 1/2c, 68 1/2c, 69 1/2c, 70 1/2c, 71 1/2c, 72 1/2c, 73 1/2c, 74 1/2c, 75 1/2c, 76 1/2c, 77 1/2c, 78 1/2c, 79 1/2c, 80 1/2c, 81 1/2c, 82 1/2c, 83 1/2c, 84 1/2c, 85 1/2c, 86 1/2c, 87 1/2c, 88 1/2c, 89 1/2c, 90 1/2c, 91 1/2c, 92 1/2c, 93 1/2c, 94 1/2c, 95 1/2c, 96 1/2c, 97 1/2c, 98 1/2c, 99 1/2c, 100 1/2c, 101 1/2c, 102 1/2c, 103 1/2c, 104 1/2c, 105 1/2c, 106 1/2c, 107 1/2c, 108 1/2c, 109 1/2c, 110 1/2c, 111 1/2c, 112 1/2c, 113 1/2c, 114 1/2c, 115 1/2c, 116 1/2c, 117 1/2c, 118 1/2c, 119 1/2c, 120 1/2c, 121 1/2c, 122 1/2c, 123 1/2c, 124 1/2c, 125 1/2c, 126 1/2c, 127 1/2c, 128 1/2c, 129 1/2c, 130 1/2c, 131 1/2c, 132 1/2c, 133 1/2c, 134 1/2c, 135 1/2c, 136 1/2c, 137 1/2c, 138 1/2c, 139 1/2c, 140 1/2c, 141 1/2c, 142 1/2c, 143 1/2c, 144 1/2c, 145 1/2c, 146 1/2c, 147 1/2c, 148 1/2c, 149 1/2c, 150 1/2c, 151 1/2c, 152 1/2c, 153 1/2c, 154 1/2c, 155 1/2c, 156 1/2c, 157 1/2c, 158 1/2c, 159 1/2c, 160 1/2c, 161 1/2c, 162 1/2c, 163 1/2c, 164 1/2c, 165 1/2c, 166 1/2c, 167 1/2c, 168 1/2c, 169 1/2c, 170 1/2c, 171 1/2c, 172 1/2c, 173 1/2c, 174 1/2c, 175 1/2c, 176 1/2c, 177 1/2c, 178 1/2c, 179 1/2c, 180 1/2c, 181 1/2c, 182 1/2c, 183 1/2c, 184 1/2c, 185 1/2c, 186 1/2c, 187 1/2c, 188 1/2c, 189 1/2c, 190 1/2c, 191 1/2c, 192 1/2c, 193 1/2c, 194 1/2c, 195 1/2c, 196 1/2c, 197 1/2c, 198 1/2c, 199 1/2c, 200 1/2c, 201 1/2c, 202 1/2c, 203 1/2c, 204 1/2c, 205 1/2c, 206 1/2c, 207 1/2c, 208 1/2c, 209 1/2c, 210 1/2c, 211 1/2c, 212 1/2c, 213 1/2c, 214 1/2c, 215 1/2c, 216 1/2c, 217 1/2c, 218 1/2c, 219 1/2c, 220 1/2c, 221 1/2c, 222 1/2c, 223 1/2c, 224 1/2c, 225 1/2c, 226 1/2c, 227 1/2c, 228 1/2c, 229 1/2c, 230 1/2c, 231 1/2c, 232 1/2c, 233 1/2c, 234 1/2c, 235 1/2c, 236 1/2c, 237 1/2c, 238 1/2c, 239 1/2c, 240 1/2c, 241 1/2c, 242 1/2c, 243 1/2c, 244 1/2c, 245 1/2c, 246 1/2c, 247 1/2c, 248 1/2c, 249 1/2c, 250 1/2c, 251 1/2c, 252 1/2c, 253 1/2c, 254 1/2c, 255 1/2c, 256 1/2c, 257 1/2c, 258 1/2c, 259 1/2c, 260 1/2c, 261 1/2c, 262 1/2c, 263 1/2c, 264 1/2c, 265 1/2c, 266 1/2c, 267 1/2c, 268 1/2c, 269 1/2c, 270 1/2c, 271 1/2c, 272 1/2c, 273 1/2c, 274 1/2c, 275 1/2c, 276 1/2c, 277 1/2c, 278 1/2c, 279 1/2c, 280 1/2c, 281 1/2c, 282 1/2c, 283 1/2c, 284 1/2c, 285 1/2c, 286 1/2c, 287 1/2c, 288 1/2c, 289 1/2c, 290 1/2c, 291 1/2c, 292 1/2c, 293 1/2c, 294 1/2c, 295 1/2c, 296 1/2c, 297 1/2c, 298 1/2c, 299 1/2c, 300 1/2c, 301 1/2c, 302 1/2c, 303 1/2c, 304 1/2c, 305 1/2c, 306 1/2c, 307 1/2c, 308 1/2c, 309 1/2c, 310 1/2c, 311 1/2c, 312 1/2c, 313 1/2c, 314 1/2c, 315 1/2c, 316 1/2c, 317 1/2c, 318 1/2c, 319 1/2c, 320 1/2c, 321 1/2c, 322 1/2c, 323 1/2c, 324 1/2c, 325 1/2c, 326 1/2c, 327 1/2c, 328 1/2c, 329 1/2c, 330 1/2c, 331 1/2c, 332 1/2c, 333 1/2c, 334 1/2c, 335 1/2c, 336 1/2c, 337 1/2c, 338 1/2c, 339 1/2c, 340 1/2c, 341 1/2c, 342 1/2c, 343 1/2c, 344 1/2c, 345 1/2c, 346 1/2c, 347 1/2c, 348 1/2c, 349 1/2c, 350 1/2c, 351 1/2c, 352 1/2c, 353 1/2c, 354 1/2c, 355 1/2c, 356 1/2c, 357 1/2c, 358 1/2c, 359 1/2c, 360 1/2c, 361 1/2c, 362 1/2c, 363 1/2c, 364 1/2c, 365 1/2c, 366 1/2c, 367 1/2c, 368 1/2c, 369 1/2c, 370 1/2c, 371 1/2c, 372 1/2c, 373 1/2c, 374 1/2c, 375 1/2c, 376 1/2c, 377 1/2c, 378 1/2c, 379 1/2c, 380 1/2c, 381 1/2c, 382 1/2c, 383 1/2c, 384 1/2c, 385 1/2c, 386 1/2c, 387 1/2c, 388 1/2c, 389 1/2c, 390 1/2c, 391 1/2c, 392 1/2c, 393 1/2c, 394 1/2c, 395 1/2c, 396 1/2c, 397 1/2c, 398 1/2c, 399 1/2c, 400 1/2c, 401 1/2c, 402 1/2c, 403 1/2c, 404 1/2c, 405 1/2c, 406 1/2c, 407 1/2c, 408 1/2c, 409 1/2c, 410 1/2c, 411 1/2c, 412 1/2c, 413 1/2c, 414 1/2c, 415 1/2c, 416 1/2c, 417 1/2c, 418 1/2c, 419 1/2c, 420 1/2c, 421 1/2c, 422 1/2c, 423 1/2c, 424 1/2c, 425 1/2c, 426 1/2c, 427 1/2c, 428 1/2c, 429 1/2c, 430 1/2c, 431 1/2c, 432 1/2c, 433 1/2c, 434 1/2c, 435 1/2c, 436 1/2c, 437 1/2c, 438 1/2c, 439 1/2c, 440 1/2c,

[illegible]

Commodities

[illegible]

Discount market

For extremely large help from the Bank of England yesterday. This assistance was provided by a £100 million loan to the Treasury last night at MLR, four or five houses participating, and very large bills put out for sale. The Treasury was not to be enough, so it was looked as though banks would be taking run-down balances and throwing them into the market.

Money Market

[illegible]

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver) were: Copper down 5,925 to 497,275; tin up 85 to 2,010; lead down 250 to 55,475; zinc up 2,250 to 70,275; silver up 10,000 to 18,010,000 troy ounces.

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[illegible]

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